2017 MONTANA STATE BOBCAT FOOTBALL

MAC BIGNELL, Linebacker
6-1, 222, Sr., Drummond, MT
8 career forced fumbles, tied for 1st in MSU history and 9th among current FCS players

MITCHELL HERBERT
6-4, 210, Sr., Eugene, OR
Receiver

BRYSON McCabe
6-0, 215, Sr., Spirit Lake, IA
Safety
2017 MONTANA STATE
BOBCAT FOOTBALL

3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
'56 (NAIA), '76 (D-II), '84 (D-1AA)

120 Years of Playing Football
23 Championships
5 MSU Super Bowl Players
16 NFL Players
11 CFL Players
1 NFL Hall of Famer
2 CFL Hall of Famers

Head Coach Jeff Choate

First Season at Montana State
* 2016 Big Sky Freshman of the Year
* Two Freshman All-Americas
* Became first 1st-year head coach to
beat Montana since 1983 & first to win
at Montana since 1968

In 10 Years as FBS Assistant Coach:
8 Bowl Game Appearances;
2 BSC Bowl Championships;
Coached 8 1st & 2nd Round Draft Picks
2017 Bobcat Football

Quick Facts

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Name (Founded) ............. Montana State University (1893)
Location ......................................................... Bozeman, MT
Enrollment ................................................. 16,660
President .................................................. Dr. Waded Cruzado
Athletic Director ........................................ Leon Costello

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COACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF
Jeff Choate (UM Western, ’93) ............... HEAD COACH
Overall Record: 4-7, 2nd ................................ MSU: 4-7, 2nd

Ty Gregorak (Colorado/’01) ............... Defensive Coord./LBs (2nd)
Brian Armstrong (UM Western/’98) ......... Offensive Coord. (2nd)
BJ Robertson (UM Western/’98) ............ ST Coord./TE/HS Relations (2nd)
Michael Pittre (UCLA/’08) ............... Recr. Coord./RBs (4th)
Joshua Taufalele (New Mexico/’10) .......... Offensive Line (1st)
DeNarius McGhee (Montana State/’14) ........ Quarterbacks (1st)
Matt Miller (Boise State/’14) ............... Receivers (2nd)
Byron Hout (Boise State/’12) ............... Defensive Line (2nd)
Mark Orphrey (Texas Southern/’11) .......... Secondary (1st)
Kyle Rusinger (St. Cloud State/’14) ........ Secondary Asst. (2nd)

Joe Dunning (Carroll/’13) ..................... Offensive Intern
Kendrick Van Ackeren (Montana/’16) ......... Defensive Intern
Ryan Saparto (Washington State/’14) ........ Special Teams Intern

Football Operation Dir. ............... Brittney Johnson (Boise State/’11)
Video Coordinator ......................... Garrett Becker
Athletic Trainer ................................. Rob Higgs
Equipment Manager ....................... Scott Gifford

2016 RESULTS
Record Overall/Conference .................... 5-6/3-5, 8th
# Weeks Ranked ........................................ 0
Final Ranking ............................................ none
FCS Playoffs ............................................. none

2017 SCHEDULE (Mountain time unless noted)
Sept. 2 at Washington State ..................... 8:30 pm MT FS1
Sept. 9 South Dakota State (Gold Rush) . 6 pm SWX
Sept. 23 *at North Dakota ................. 1:30 pm MT SWX
Sept. 30 *Weber State (Homecoming) .... 1:30 pm SWX
Oct. 7 *Portland State (Parent/Family) .... 11 am ROOT
Oct. 14 *at Eastern Washington ............. 2 pm MT SWX
Oct. 21 *at Northern Colorado ............... 12:30 pm ROOT
Oct. 28 *Idaho State (Cap on Cancer) .... 1:30 pm ROOT
Nov. 4 Kennesaw State (Military/Ag) .... 12 noon SWX
Nov. 11 *at Northern Arizona .......... 5 pm MT SWX
Nov. 18 *Montana ................................ 12 noon ROOT

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Jeff Choate’s introductory press conference.
(Dean Hendrickson)

In Jeff Choate, Montana State found a coach whose football roots lie in the Treasure State, with a style and philosophy that fits the program’s history of hard-nosed play. In Montana State, second-year head coach Jeff Choate found what he believes is the perfect fit.

“A lot of things came together” during the hiring process that culminated with Choate’s arrival at Montana State. It could also apply to his first season as the top Cat, during which his team battled injuries in both lines and to its most productive offensive players, but ended with stirring back-to-back wins. The latter among those victories was an exhilarating 24-17 triumph in Missoula on November 19 that served as a coming out party for the program.

In-season losing streaks can bring frustration, but that never seeped into Montana State’s 2016 campaign. Instead, the process of establishing the foundation and building the culture necessary for the Bobcat program to rekindle its winning tradition took hold. A coaching staff melding experience and youthful passion guided a young team through rocky stretches, but the season-ending wins boost the program into 2017.

As much as Choate liked what he saw from his team late last season, he was more impressed with the commitment that rolled into the winter, spring and summer months. “Every team improves during standard practice windows,” Choate said, “but there is real opportunity for players and teams to improve during the winter and summer.

Jeff Choate presided over his first spring practice session at MSU (Dean Hendrickson)

Bobcats Boosted by Strong Finish

2017 BOBCAT FOOTBALL - Overview

2017 RETURNER SUMMARY
Starters Returning: Offensive/Defensive/ST.............7/8/3
Offensive Lettermen Returning/Lost..................18/10
Defensive Lettermen Returning/Lost..................19/10
Specialist Lettermen Returning/Lost..................4/1

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING
Mitch Brott, OT 6-6/295/So.............11 starts, Fosch A-A
Mitchell Herbert, WR 6-4/210/So...70 career rec., 12 TDs
Kevin Kassis, WR 6-0/180/So 9 rec., 152 yds as frosh
Dylan Mahoney, OT 6-6/285/Sr.............6 starts in ’16
Chris Murray, QB 6-2/180/So...Big Sky Frosh of Year
Alex Neale, C 6-3/290/Jr............11 starts in ’16
Justin Paige, WR 5-11/175/Sr...40 career rec., 9 TDs

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING
Bryce Alley, CB 5-11/175/So/................22 tackles in ’16
Mac Bignell, LB 6-1/218/Sr.35.5 career TFL, 8 FF
Grant Collins, BUCK 6-4/240/Jr.11-game starter in ’16
Tyrone Fa’anono, DE 6-2/270/Jr.............. Starter in ’15
Khari Garcia, FS 5-10/195/Sr....120 career tackles
Josh Hill, LB 5-11/210/So .54 TT, 2 int as frosh
Braydon Konkol, S 6-2/215/Sr................20 TT, 2 TFL in ’16
Bryson McCabe, S 6-0/205/2nd Tm All-BSC in ’16
Derek Marks, DE 6-1/245/So.20 TT, 2 TFL as frosh
Tucker Yates, DT 6-0/300/Jr............ 9 games in ’16

SPECIALISTS RETURNING
Luke Daly, K 6-2/185/Sr........21-28 FG in career
Rocky Hogue, LS 6-3/225/Sr............Returning starter
Jered Padmos, P 6-1/175/Sr.39.7 yds on 56 punts
Gabe Peppenger, K 6-0/195/So...9-13 FG, 25-25 PAT

Bobcat Game Day

MSU’s Home Field Offers Thrilling Environment

Visit Bobcat Stadium on any given Game Day and you’ll find an exciting, physical brand of football that calls to mind great players and teams from throughout Montana State’s history. You’ll find that the beautiful video board, a great marching band and spirit squad, and other factors combine for an environment second to no school in the FCS.

But on Game Day at Bobcat Stadium, you’ll find so much more. From the campers that begin weekend festivities on Friday to the hundreds of tailgates in Bobcat Stadium’s parking lots that pop up throughout the morning on Saturday, MSU’s game day unfolds like a call to arms for Bobcat fans. During the Bobcat Prowl fans line the path from Brick Breeden Fieldhouse to Bobcat Stadium and cheer as the Spirit of the West Marching Band leads the team, and prior to games the Band appears around the tailgate lots to add game-day cheer. Local bands perform and vendors offer local goods on Bobcat Boulevard, the section of Kagy Street that runs in front of the stadium.

Since the Bobcat Stadium expansion of 2011 that boosted the building’s seating capacity to 17,777 the Cats have regularly been among the nation’s leaders in attendance. Montana State averaged 17,907 fans for its six home games last year, fifth in the nation. That figure was second nationally in terms of percentage of capacity.

2017 BOBCAT FOOTBALL - Overview

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Personnel Breakdown

TEAM INFORMATION
Affiliation/Conf .................. NCAA DI FCS/Big Sky
Nickname....................................Bobcats
Colors ........................................ Blue, gold
Stadium .................................Bobcat Stadium
Seating Capacity ........................17,777
Turf .............................................FieldTurf
Primary Offense/Defense ......... Multiple/3-4

Jeff Choate’s introductory press conference.
(Dean Hendrickson)
‘He’s a True Players’ Coach’
Jeff Choate brings a unique perspective to head coaching position at MSU

“The first time we met with Coach Choate (after he arrived at MSU) we told him that it’s a struggle for some of us to keep on weight, to eat the right foods. It seemed like the next day we had bagels and peanut butter and mixers to make smoothies in the locker room. He understands nutrition is important to us, and he took steps to help us. He’s a true players coach because he cares about what we’re going through every day, not just how we play in games.”

-2016 All-America Guard JP Flynn

“This is a players’ game, and we want Montana State to be a players’ program. Our job is to give our players the tools they need to perform to the best of their ability. That means we coach with passion and give our players what they need to reach their dreams as players. But it’s more important that while players are in our program they learn to show people respect, meet their obligations, go to class on days when they might not want to, treat women the right way, give back to the community, all the things they’ll need to be successful employees and managers and husbands and fathers when they leave here.”

MSU Head Coach Jeff Choate
Championship Tradition

Amidst the torrent of changes in contemporary college football, Montana State's legacy of excellence gives the program an air of stability. The Bobcats shared three straight league titles from 2010-12, posted a program-best 12 straight winning seasons, and have qualified for the FCS Playoffs four times in the past seven campaigns. Many factors contribute to Montana State's Championship Tradition...

Montana State's recent run of success has been fueled in part by sensational quarterback play, a lineage that extends to 2016 Big Sky Freshman of the Year and incumbent starter Chris Murray. Travis Lulay (below, top left) finished his career in 2005 with the second-highest number of total offense yards in Big Sky history, and eight years later DeNarius McGhee - now MSU's quarterbacks coach - rolled up 12,336 total yards, still the second-most by a Big Sky quarterback. Lulay (three) and McGhee (three) combined to lead Montana State to six Big Sky titles in 12 years. To top things off, Dakota Prukop, in his two seasons as MSU's quarterback, finished with 319.4 total offense yards per game, the second-highest total in Big Sky history.

The national profile of Bobcat Football took a dramatic step forward in December of 2013, when senior defensive end Brad Daly (right) became MSU's second straight Buck Buchanan Award winner as the top defensive player in the FCS. Daly joined 2012 winner Caleb Schreibeis, and the parallels between the two are uncanny - both are native Montanans with a brother who proceeded him as a Bobcat team captain. Daly's father also served in that capacity, and his brother Bobby was an All-America linebacker for the Cats. Brad Daly led the nation in sacks in 2013, a year after Schreibeis led the FCS in forced fumbles.

Fans don’t even have to enter Bobcat Stadium experience the loyalty and passion of Bobcat faithful. Thousands flock to the Stadium early Saturday - some on Friday night - to revel in the fantastic home atmosphere of Bobcat games.

Bobcat Title Timeline

Montana State's football tradition reaches across the centuries, but since World War II the Bobcat program has produced excellence on the field

Montana State finished the season with a 4-0 mark in the Rocky Mountain Conference, and although it fell one game short of qualifying for a league championship the Bobcats enjoyed their best conference season in the league's configuration that included Colorado, Utah, BYU and Wyoming

1926

1938

1946

1947

Montana State unveiled the 'T' formation for the first time in the school's annals, and behind quarterback Gene Bourdet clinched the RMC title with a season-ending win at Colorado Mines

In spite of non-league losses to Oregon, BYU and Hawaii, the Gridcats rolled over their only two league rivals. Although Rocky Mountain officials initially ruled that the league title was unclaimed because no team played enough games, the RMC currently lists the Bobcats as 1947 champions
2017 BOBCAT FOOTBALL
Bobcats Burst into Second Season of Jeff Choate’s Tenure

Jeff Choate is no stranger to history. He studied it at Western Montana College in the early ‘90s, and taught it in high schools around his home state of Idaho in the following years.

Last fall, Choate even made some history. He became Montana State’s first first-year football coach since 1983 to beat the school’s arch-rival, and the first since 1968 to earn that victory in Missoula.

Many would find satisfaction in a season that ended on that type of high note. Choate found only motivation. “That win was a good springboard into the off-season,” Choate said. “I think we all saw what this group is capable of,” and everyone in the program used the strong finish as fuel for a rigorous and productive winter and spring. “I like the work they got done.”

But Choate knows that much work remains. “The summer offers great opportunity” he said. “We’ve had buy-in from the players, and we have guys that have improved themselves physically. They look the part. Making physical improvements is something we emphasized at the beginning of this process, and we’ve seen progress.”

Translating that to the field is the ultimate goal. “Performance is what it’s about,” Choate said. “That’s what we’re working toward.”

OFFENSE

Building to strengths.

Montana State’s offensive personnel stands as nearly opposite of the group Choate and his staff inherited a year ago. The strength of Montana State’s 2016 offense, particularly in terms of experience, increased further it moved away from the ball. The team had no vet-

Tight end Conner Sullivan (Dean Hendrickson)
eran presence at quarterback and little in the offensive line, but running back and receiver held great promise.

A year later, the Cats feature a dynamic returning starter under center, a talented veteran to snap him the ball, and experience on the perimeter of the offensive line. That, Choate says, is a good place to start.

“One of the things we’ve spent time talking about since the end of spring ball is streamlining our verbiage, making it easier to communicate and simplifying things for Chris (Murray), knowing that he’s our guy going forward.”

Montana State’s offense remained a work in progress throughout the 2016 season. Choate’s emphasis on running the football never wavered, but a stylistic evolution occurred when Murray moved into the lineup.

“I think we’ll look similar offensively (to last year) because we had some success,” Choate said. “We ran the ball very well, but we need to diversify and throw the ball at a more efficient rate. We focused on our completion percentage this spring. We tracked every day, and we wanted to be at 65%. That’s a mark you can win with, that’s pretty good, and when you get up into the 70% range you have a chance to be a pretty efficient offense.”

Choate said first-year offensive coordinator Brian Armstrong and his staff “applied that benchmark every day” in order to analyze “when we use this route concept, we complete passes at this percentage, that sort of thing.”

The transition to Armstrong, and the addition of former MSU star DeNarius McGhee as quarterbacks coach, sparked the offense in the spring. “Brian’s really creative,” Choate said. “He does a really good job at building an offense that suits our playmakers, and that might be because of the time he spent coaching his school ball and building really prolific
offenses at Rocky Mountain (College). You might have a few really good players at those levels, and you have to take advantage of what you have in a certain year."

Murray’s presence as the trigger man gives the team a degree of certainty in engineering a scheme. “Obviously it all starts at quarterback and building around the things that Chris does well. That’s where the idea of refining our verbiage and communication on offense and building the offense to suit those strengths began, and couple that with the job DeNarius did mentoring Chris on and off the field and I think there has been tremendous offensive growth since the end of 2016.”

Murray’s continuing development as a passer - “Our receivers really like how he’s thrown the ball this summer,” Choate said in the midst of MSU’s player-run practices - gives Choate the opportunity to do things that bedevil defensive coordinators. “Mixing tempos, from my experience as a defensive playcaller, is one of the things that always drove me crazy. When teams constantly go fast or constantly go no-huddle you can get into a comfort zone, but changing things up can create a little confusion. I like mixing tempos from an offensive standpoint.”

In a backfield featuring nearly 3,000 career rushing yards from running backs last fall, Murray was the team’s most explosive ground threat. His 6.2 yards-per-carry as a freshman is the fifth-best mark over the course of a season in Bobcat history, and the fleet frosh gashed Big Sky defenses for gains of at least 15 yards 10 times in his five season-ending starts. That included touchdown runs of 70 and 48 yards. “Chris is a deep threat whenever he has the ball,” Choate said, “regardless of whether he throws or runs.”

Even without the brand recognition of Chad Newell (2,111 career rushing yards) and Gunnar Brekke (1,258), Choate is pleased with his corps of running backs. Senior Nick LaSane’s presence as a durable all-purpose back anchors the group, while Boise State transfer Jake Roper emerged in the spring as a multi-purpose back. Junior Noah James and sophomore Anthony Pegues each offer useful traits, and sophomore Edward Vander joined the program this summer.

“We know what we have in Nick and Jake,” Choate said. “Nick really put in a lot of work, and he looks great. Both Jake and Noah bring versatility, and I’m looking forward to seeing what Eddie can add.”

Still, Murray has the ability to boost a run game into overdrive. “Our most dynamic runner is Chris,” Choate said. “When you have to defend the quarterback in the run game it’s like having to defend 11 instead of 10, so he creates a different dimension for the defense to take care of, and it creates a lot of options for an offense. I’d love to be a running back with Chris at quarterback because it softens the edges.”

When Murray looks to soften opposing defenses with his arm, several familiar stand-at-the-ready. Receiver Mitchell Herbert has anchored the Bobcat receiving corps since arriving at MSU, and his senior season could see him rise the program’s receiving record lists. Choate’s appreciation for Herbert reaches far beyond the stat sheet.

“He probably gets sick and tired of hearing it,” Choate says, “but Mitch is the poster boy for student-athlete. I think three of the four terms I’ve been here he’s been a 4.0 (student), and when he was a 3.96 he got an A-minus. I don’t think he’s ever gotten below that at Montana. He’s my vertical threat for all three of his seasons as a Bobcat. Like those two seniors, Kevin Kassis and Karl Tucker II emerged as freshmen to spark the receiving group. Injuries ended Tucker’s season early, but Kassis established himself as an excellent receiver and return specialist as the season progressed. Add third-year sophomores Keon Stephens and incoming transfer Jabari Johnson as bigger receivers and speedsters Willie Patterson and James Campbell, incoming freshmen, and the MSU receivers corps has a diverse group of pass-catchers.

Tight end has added a productive dimension to the MSU offense for nearly two decades. Connor Sullivan’s catch to seal the win over Montana remains one of the signature moments of 2016, and brought
Beat the SKY

into focus his role as "our best pass-catcher" at tight end, Choate said. "He's continued to develop as a blocker, is a very good seam ball-catcher, has a very good catch radius, and he's an athletic kid who runs well. The more he embraces (blocking) the more valuable he'll be in our offense."

Curtis Amos Jr. also brings e, where he fits more as a "move tight end who had a really good spring," Choate said. "We challenged him about becoming a more physical blocker and he embraced that, put some weight on, and did a really good job as our H-back." Clark Judisch remains a promising developmental tight end who "just needs to keep getting bigger and stronger," Choate said.

Replacing a pair of productive, veteran guards stands at the top of the offensive line to-do list. All-America JP Flynn and Monte Folsom, who Choate called "a great glue guy" depart, leaving opportunities for younger players. Senior Caleb Gillis looks to land a starting job for the first time this fall, while junior Wade Webster, sophomore Jake McFetridge and redshirt freshmen Taylor Tualasasopo and Lewis Kidd are among those who battle for honors at the guard positions.

Whoever lands the nod at guard will be flanked by experience and talent. Alex Neale enters his second season as MSU's starting center. "It all starts at center," Choate said, "and Alex is able to control a lot of the communication at the line of scrimmage both in the run game and in our protections."

Senior Dylan Mahoney returns as the starting left tackle, while Freshman All-America Mitch Brott starts on the other side. The two each bring mobility and athleticism, which is an apt description for the line as a whole. "I think we can be a better inside zone team in time, but if we're going to a little lighter I think we have to take advantage of angles and get guys moving."

DEFENSE
Building on a strong foundation.

Montana State's 2016 didn't feature a defensive pivot point. There wasn't a game that turned things around. It was a process, one that was discussed often throughout the season.

In the end, though, the season's final two games stand as a road map for where the Bobcat defense is headed.

"There was a crisis of confidence on defense," Choate says of the state in which he found Montana State's once-proud program in December, 2015. "The offense would make a play, and that would affect the next five or six plays for the defense. To be able to have that next-play mentality and go compete on every rep, like we showed late in the (2016) season, is what we're after."

Choate identified that mentality as a key step toward building the kind of physical, ball-hawking defense he desires. In an effort to spur his team to a fast, confident pace Choate and defensive coordinator Ty Gregorak pared back the scheme last fall. That began to change in the spring.

"We were not complicated on defense last year," Choate said. "We actually ran more defense this spring that we did week in and week out last season, but that simplicity was good for our guys because they started to take ownership over what we call our grooved calls. Now we have the ability to rely on the confidence that was built on those calls and expand our defense a little bit to give

Receiver Mitchell Herbert (Kelly Gorham)

Bryce Alley (Kelly Gorham)


Montana State's magical 1984 season ended in Charleston, S.C., with a national championship, and along the way MSU won a share of its fourth Big Sky crown in the previous nine years.

Doug Graber's only season as Montana State's head coach produces a 5-2 conference record, good for a co-championship.
Bobcat immortality is carried into Right, Travis Lulay Jeff Bolton, top choice has drawn less notice in terms of "young guys we'll count on at the edge." depth at the Buck, and Choate calls them Michael Jobman and Kyle Finch provide that in the spring." Redshirt freshmen comfortable, and you could really see on you could see him get more and more took some time, but as the season wore said. "The transition from inside linebacker grown junior "had a good spring," Choate his third season as a starter. The home- backer - enters middle line- a converted position, where Grant Collins - a converted middle line- backer - enters his third season as a starter. The homegrown junior "had a good spring," Choate said. "The transition from inside linebacker took some time, but as the season wore on you could see him get more and more comfortable, and you could really see that in the spring." Redshirt freshmen Michael Jobman and Kyle Finch provide depth at the Buck, and Choate calls them "young guys we'll count on at the edge."

Presumptive Preseason All-Big Sky choice has drawn less notice in terms of post-season accolades than his productivity might suggest during his two years as a starter. He led the Big Sky in solo tackles and tackles-for-loss as a sophomore - an accomplishment that earned him Honorable Men- tion honors in All-Big Sky voting by the league's coaches, and nearly matched that effort as a junior in the transition of 2016.

The Bobcat staff utilized Bignell in different roles during the spring, giving the team positional flexibility entering the fall while allowing the other members of the linebacker corps to fall into positions that suit their strengths.

"Mac has played a ton of reps at Sam linebacker for this team," Choate said, "but he can also play Will. That gives us the ability to do some different things."

Much of that flexibility stemmed from a negative turn of events, Sam linebacker Jacob Hadley's season-ending injury. Mov- ing Josh Hill from Will, where he started throughout his redshirt freshman season, to the middle is one of those possibilities. Senior Jakob McCarthy is slotted in the middle, with his brother Lukas McCarthy backing Hill up at the Will and third-year sophomore Walker Cozzie adding depth at the Mike. Promising freshman Balue Chapman, projected as Bignell's backup at Sam, also figures into the rotation.

In the secondary, Bryson McCabe returns as a Second Team All-Big Sky choice at free safety, while veterans Khari Garcia and Braydon Konkol hold down the strong safety spot. Ben Folsom moved from quarter- back during the 2016 season, and adds depth. Damien Washington was a standout at corner as a true freshman, and veter- ans Bryce Alley and Braeilen Evans also return. Those are the backfield certainties.

Variables enter the conversation in multiples when discussing other second- ary possibilities. Transfers JoJo Henderson and Dre Jackson and freshmen Tyrel Thomas, Jalen Cole and Keaton Anderson will receive looks during fall camp.

Continually ramping up pressure on opposing offenses is a stated goal of the Bobcat defense, but Choate said that pressure can come in different forms. One weeks it may be a four-man pass rush, with linebackers playing a larger role the next week and disguising coverages emerging as a pivotal factor the week after that.

"If we're playing a pass-oriented offense we have to be able to create pressure on the quarterback," Choate said. "I think we have some natural pass rushers, and the ability to scheme some things. But creating confusion can be just as effective. Mixing coverage concepts can create pre-snap looks for the (opposing) quarterback that aren't the same post-snap. We see such a variety of offenses this season that it's a challenge week in and week out."
KICK TEAMS
Experience, production.

One season after introducing an entirely new cast of kickers while enduring changes in the return game because of injuries, the 2017 season dawns with special teams stability.

Luke Daly’s return after missing 2016 gives the Bobcats one of the top kickers in the FCS. He is 21-for-28 in his career, but posted a tremendous 8-for-9 season in 2016 and nailed all three of his kicks over 50 yards. His long is 57.

“Luke looked really good in the spring,” Choate said. “He’s a proven commodity who has made a lot of kicks for this program. He also did some punting in the spring, and that could factor in (during the fall).”

Daly’s return bolsters an already formidable group. Jered Padmos stepped into the punter role last season as a true freshman, averaging a tick under 40 yards per punt with five of 50 yards or more and 10 inside the opponent 20-yard line. Fellow true freshman Gabe Peppenger handled place-kicking duties with equal efficiency, connecting on each of his all 25 of his extra points whileailing nine of his 13 field goal attempts. Devon Tandberg also returns as a sophomore with a successful track record as a kicker.

Long snapper Rocky Hogue returns with a nearly-perfect record in his three seasons, and the return game matches other areas in proven productivity. Logan Jones, when healthy, is a premiere return man. Kevin Kassis blends sure hands with explosiveness and elusiveness.

SUMMARY
Heading in the right direction.

Jeff Choate’s first 18 months as Montana State’s head coach combined the blur of adapting to a new role in a new setting with the relentless need for patience. The spring and summer of 2017 fused those realities together. Choate and his staff put together a second talented and balanced class of newcomers, building for the future while answering needs in the present, while developing the talent on hand.

The Bobcats enter the 2017 season with returning talent at key positions - quarterback Chris Murray and a trio of veteran starters on the line fuel the offense, while Mac Bignell anchors a strong, deep front seven on defense. Add to that proven talent in the kick game, and whatever 2017 holds for the Cats it appears that a strong foundation exists and the future remains bright.

The immediate future features a daunting schedule. The Cats open the season with a bowl team followed by three straight FCS Playoff entries from 2017. In all, it’s likely that Montana State faces the Big Sky’s toughest schedule when all is said and done.

Bobcat Notebook

The 100-Yard Club
In rushing for 860 yards last season, Chris Murray became the third Bobcat freshman in the last 50 years to lead the team in rushing. He also set a program record for freshmen.

Turnover Talk
The 2017 Bobcats finished 4-3 when forcing at least one turnover, 0-4 when failing to take the ball away.

Turf Talk
After installing its FieldTurf playing surface in 2008 - Montana State’s first artificial field - the Cats won 43 of their 61 games on that field and averaged 33.1 points a game. This summer, MSU installed its second FieldTurf playing field.

Turning Things Around
After losing its first eight games at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, Montana State has split their last eight contests there.

Preseason Honors

Mac Bignell
- STATS FCS Preseason All-America
- College Sports Madness Preseason All-Big Sky 1st Team
- Official Preseason All-Big Sky

Bryson McCabe
- College Sports Madness Preseason All-Big Sky 2nd Team

Zach Wright
- College Sports Madness Preseason All-Big Sky 3rd Team
career path also received a jolt in January when former Bobcat star DeNarius McGhee joined the staff as quarterbacks coach. While Murray’s work to refine his throwing is among the obvious storylines of the spring and summer, the sophomore has drawn praise for improved footwork and knowledge of the team’s offense.

From Bobcat Coach Jeff Choate
"When Chris had breakdowns last year, it was often precipitated by not being comfortable and not knowing where he was going with the ball. With a quarterback it starts upstairs at your brain and your eyes, and the next thing is your feet. So Coach McGhee really broke down the specific mechanics of the quarterback position with Chris, not changing his throwing mechanics but working within that style to make him more efficient and more accurate. Brady McChesney had a good spring, and we’re very comfortable with his ability. He’s an important player for us. After that, I’m excited to see the progress Kamden Brown can make in the fall and the competition between the three returners and Tucker (Rovig) and Callahan (O'Reilly, incoming freshmen)."

Quarterback Notes
Montana State enters 2017 with a returning starter at quarterback for the 13th time in the past 17 seasons... McGhee was the last Bobcat before Murray to start for MSU as a freshman, although the last Bobcat to begin a game under center as a true freshman was Chad Mayer in 1992... third-year sophomore Brady McChesney and true freshmen Tucker Rovig and Callahan O'Reilly are expected to enter fall camp in competition as the team's backup quarterback.
has started games in each of the past two seasons. Alex Neale started every game at center in 2016, while Mitch Brott earned Freshman All-America honors for his work at tackle last season. Lewis Kidd and Jake McFetridge performed well in vacated guard spots in the spring. Redshirt Jake Sessions, a tackle who could be asked to contribute early in his career, and former prep quarterback Wilson Brott add depth.

From Bobcat Coach Jeff Choate:

"It all starts with the center, and we have a good, experienced center in Alex Neale. He's able to control a lot of the communication at the line of scrimmage, both in the run game and in pass protection. Dylan Mahone gives us a left tackle who is a very, very good athlete and a good leader who has played a lot of football for us. At right tackle Mitch Brott was a Freshman All-American who's just going to get bigger and stronger and better. So the question is what are we going to do at guard, and there's going to be some really good competition (in August). Jake McFetridge had a really good spring, and Caleb Gillis, who's going to be a senior, has played some really good downs for us. Lewis Kidd is probably a natural tackle, but he can slide into guard, and Taylor Tuiasasopo redshirted last year and is a big, athletic kid that gives us another option. You really do need six or seven guys that are familiar playing with each other, and we have the potential for that this year. I think this is an athletic line that gives us a lot of different options in the run game."

Offensive Line Notes

Guard JP Flynn earned All-America honors a season ago... Flynn was MSU's only full-time starter returning to the 2016 offensive line... since Jason McEndoo departed as MSU's offensive line coach after a dozen seasons following the 2014 campaign, three men have held that spot in the last three seasons, including Joshua Taufalele this year... since 2001, nine different Bobcat offensive linemen have earned All-America honors a total of 13 times.
Overview

One season after featuring a deep, experienced and talented running back group, MSU enters 2017 with less certainty. Gone are Chad Newell and Gunnar Brekke, both essentially starters with complementary skill sets. In their stead, Nick LaSane showed extremely well during the spring and enters the fall ready to play a leading role. A downhill runner, with demonstrated ability to excel in the pass game, Boise State transfer Jake Roper showed elusiveness during spring drills, and junior college transfer Edward Vander arrives over the summer. Veterans Noah James and Logan Jones, each from Kalispell Glacier High, have established skills, James as a power back and Jones as a speedsster who has made his mark during two seasons in the return game. Anthony Pegues also brings elusiveness to the backfield, and Tyrel Burgess should get a look in August.

Bobcat Coach Jeff Choate:

“We know what we have with Nick LaSane and Jake Roper. Nick looks great, he put in a lot of work in May, and I think he’s a guy we’ll count on especially late in games to control the ball. Anthony Pegues is not a big guy but he’s strong, and he can be very effective running inside. Brian (Armstrong, offensive coordinator) is very creative, and that will allow us to maximize what guys like Nick and Jake and Anthony give us. We’ll take a hard look in August at what Tyrel Burgess can bring to the offense.”

Running Back Notes

Six of the top 15 Bobcat rushing leaders of all time, including 2016 senior Chad Newell, have played in the last decade... while the Cats return just 308 rushing yards from the running back position, but Chris Murray led the team with 860 yards on the ground last season.

Fall Camp Outlook from Running Backs Coach Michael Pitre

“I want to see a competitive group of guys being selfless on a daily basis. We have seven guys returning so our guys need to understand that (the running back position) is where a lot of leadership needs to come from, not just on the offense but in terms of bringing the whole team together knowing we have the opportunity to do something very special this season. I want to see a group that doesn’t take one day or one snap for granted.”

Running Backs

**Returning Starter** none  
**Other Returning Lettermen** Noah James (6-1, 205, Jr), Logan Jones (5-7, 175, Jr), Nick LaSane (6-0, 220, Sr)  
**Returning Squad Members** Anthony Pegues (5-5, 185, So)  
**Redshirts** Nich Van Horssen (5-9, 195, Fr)  
**Incoming Transfer** Edward Vander (6-1, 200, So)  
**Incoming Freshman** Tyrel Burgess (5-8, 169, Fr), FB R.J. Fitzgerald (5-11, 210, Fr)  
**Starter Lost** Chad Newell (8 starts)  
**Other Lettermen Lost** Gunnar Brekke  
**Running Backs Coach** Michael Pitre (4th year at MSU)
Receivers

**Returning Starter**
Johnny D’Agostino (6-1, 190, Jr), Mitchell Herbert (6-4, 205, Sr), Justin Paige (5-11, 175, Sr)

**Other Returning Lettermen**
Kevin Kassis (6-0, 180, So), Keon Stephens (6-2, 185, So), Karl Tucker II (6-1, 205, So)

**Squad Member**
none

**Redshirts**
none

**Incoming Transfer**
Jabarri Johnson (6-4, 210, Jr)

**Incoming Freshman**
James Campbell (6-2, 180, Fr), Peyton Hanser (6-4, 205, Fr), Kapili Livingston-Lopez (5-8, 155, Fr), Lance McCutcheon (6-3, 190, Fr), Willie Patterson (5-10, 175, Fr), Coy Steel (5-9, 175, Fr)

**Starters Lost**
none

**Other Lettermen Lost**
Will Krolick, Cam Sutton

**Receivers Coach**
Matt Miller (2nd year at MSU)

**Overview**
Four players with starting experience return to the Bobcats receivers corps this season, with Mitchell Herbert starting all 11 games a season ago, Justin Paige starting all 10 games in which he played, and Johnny D’Agostino starting the first five before an injury shelved him for the season... newcomer Jabarri Johnson, a junior college transfer who began his career at Sacramento State, also joins the mix as a tall, physical pass-catcher... Kevin Kassis emerged as a dynamic piece of the pass game as a true freshman, catching four passes for 103 yards against North Dakota...

**From Bobcat Coach Jeff Choate**
“I really like the way Brian (Armstrong) designed this offense around our play-makers, like Mitch Herbert and Justin Paige and Kevin Kassis. We have a mix of returning guys at receiver that give us some different options. Mitch is the leader of this group, and we’ve had conversations about how he can expand in that role. Justin Paige gives us a vertical threat, and Kevin (Kassis) definitely emerged last season. Karl Tucker was having a great spring until his foot got dinged up, but he’ll be back healthy. Jabarri Johnson joins us this summer, he’s a bigger, more physical guy.”

**Receiver Notes**
Of the 78 catches caught by Bobcat receivers a season ago, 74 return this season... Herbert’s 15 career touchdown catches is fifth in MSU history, and his 1,346 career receiving yards is 252 from joining MSU’s top 10 list.
Sullivan, a converted receiver, and Curtis Amos are both tremendous pass-catchers.

From Bobcat Coach Jeff Choate

“I think Connor (Sullivan) is our best pass-catcher at tight end, and he’s continued to develop as a blocker. That will make him more valuable in our offense, the more he embraces that part of his role. He’s a very good seam-ball catcher, he has a very good catch radius, he’s an athletic kid, runs well, played some receiver here early in his career. A guy I thought did a really nice job in the spring was Curtis Amos. We challenged him about becoming a more physical blocker and he embraced that, put some weight on, and did a really good job as a move tight end in our ‘H’ position. Clark Judisch also had a really good spring.”

Tight End Notes

Two Bobcat tight ends - Tiai Salanao and Beau Sandland - earned All-America honors in the past five seasons... two current Bobcat tight ends, Austin Barth and Wilson Brott, were high school quarterbacks... MSU’s current tight ends account for only 24 catches in their careers.
2017, when five players with starting experience return for the Cats. Grant Collins, the hybrid end-linebacker Buck. He possesses the athleticism to play in space and explosiveness that serves him well as a pass rusher. Opposite him, sophomores Derek Marks and Marcus Ferriter earned considerable playing time after the season-ending September injury to Tyrone Fa’ananono. All three return this season in competition for time at end. The same situation exists inside, where an injury to Tucker Yates cleared time for newcomers Brandon Hayashi and Fou Polataivao, who both thrived when healthy. Yates and Hayashi enter fall camp in competition at nose tackle, while returning starter Zach Wright and redshirt Chase Benson battle at tackle. Polataivao and redshirt Denver Krone add depth.

**From Bobcat Coach Jeff Choate**

“Having some depth in the D-line was an awesome deal for us in the spring, and I know we’re looking for that to carry over into the fall. And it’s important not just to go with four or five guys but roll six or seven guys that can get a ton of reps. Having Tucker Yates healthy and being able to plug him into the middle at either the nose or three technique helps. I like the mix of players we have. Grant Collins had a good spring outside, we have excellent technical guys like Derek Marks, guys with savvy that have played a lot of football like Tyrone (Fa’ananono) and Brandon (Hayashi) and Fou (Polataivao), tough guys like Zach Wright and Chase Benson inside and Marcus Ferriter (at end). The experience we have will allow these guys have a productive summer and gives us a chance to get off to a great start in the fall.”
now plugged in as the starting Mike. Jakob McCarthy remains in the mix for depth, as do young players Balue Chapman (Sam) and Walker Cozzie (Mike). Still, versatility remains a factor at the dawn of fall camp, with new freshmen Troy Anderson, Tadan Gilman and Chad Kanow all targeted to draw looks.

From Bobcat Coach Jeff Choate
“We don’t have a lot of depth at linebacker right now. Losing Jacob (Hadley) is too bad because he really had a great spring, although Balue Chapman had a great spring, too. Mac Bignell has played a ton of reps at Sam linebacker, but he can also play Will. Josh Hill was an 11-game starter a year ago, and Lukas (McCarthy) was neck-and-neck with Josh in the spring at the Mike position and has the ability to play either inside position. We’ll look at sliding Jakob (McCarthy) inside to give us more depth at those (Mike and Will) positions. And we’ll look at some young guys, whether it be Tadan Gilman or Troy Anderson, those guys could play early. Couple those guys with Chad Kanow, who can play inside or out, and the (incoming) freshman class could really impact us at linebacker.”

Linebacker Notes
Mac Bignell’s next fumble caused will break the all-time Bobcat record... Bignell’s 35 career tackles-for-loss is 15.5 from joining the Big Sky Conference’s all-time list in that category and his 20.5 in 2015 remains tied for 9th-most in Big Sky history.
Secondary

**Returning Starter**
CB Bryce Alley (5-11, 175, Sr), S Braydon Konkol (6-2, 215, So), S Bryson McCabe (6-0, 205, Sr)

**Other Returning Lettermen**
CB Braeilen Evans (6-0, 185, Jr), S Khari Garcia (5-10, 195, Sr), CB Damien Washington (5-10, 185, So), S West Wilson (5-11, 205, Jr)

**Squad Member**
CB Braeilen Evans (6-0, 185, Jr)

**Redshirts**
S Brian Campbell (6-2, 180, Fr), CB Adam Jordt (5-10, 170, Fr), S Will Martel (6-1, 180, Fr)

**Incoming Transfers**
CB JoJo Henderson (6-2, 195, So)

**Incoming Freshman**
DB Will Martell, CB Damien Washington (5-10, 176, Fr)

**Starters Lost**
CB John Walker (11 starts)

**Other Lettermen Lost**
CB Tre’von Strong

**Secondary Coaches**
Mark Orphey (1st year at MSU); Kyle Risinger (2nd year at MSU)

Overview
Montana State returns three starters at safety - Bryson McCabe, Khari Garcia, Braydon Konkol - and Bryce Alley returns as a starter at cornerback. Incoming transfer JoJo Henderson is expected to begin his Bobcat career at cornerback, and incoming frosh stand to bolster the Cats at the corner. Henderson also brings positional flexibility to the program, after playing safety at Snow College a season ago. In addition to Alley, Damien Washington brings considerable experience gained during his freshman season last fall. Chooate likes the potential versatility of his secondary with three veteran safeties in the mix.

From Bobcat Coach Jeff Chooate
“Coming out of spring Damien Washington and Bryce Alley are the starters at the corner. Both those guys were very solid in the spring, and they have different strengths. Bryce is a better man-to-man guy, and Damien’s a great zone corner with very good football instincts, a high football IQ. We’ll need to rely on Braeilen Evans, and all three of the freshmen we signed - Jalen Cole, Tyrel Thomas and Keaton Anderson - are guys we’re going to have to get good looks at early in fall camp to decide whether they’re ready to help us. We face such a variety of offenses in our league and our non-conference schedule that it’s a challenge week in and week out, “

Secondary Notes
After recording only three interceptions in 2015, the Bobcats picked off 10 passes in 2016 (seven by defensive backs)... Bryson McCabe earned Second Team All-Big Sky honors last fall, the first Bobcat safety honored on the all-league squad’s first or second team since Joel Fuller (first team) in 2012.
Fall Camp Outlook From Bobcat Coach Jeff Choate  
“Luke Daly is really a talented kicker and punter, and the next step for him is to iron out the consistency. As a punter, he might nail a 58-yarder, then hit one 35 yards. Ideally, you want a four-five 45 punter, 4.5 hang time and 45 yards every time. Jered Padmos had a very good year last year, and Gabe Peppenger did, too. We’ll sort out roles in the fall, but we have good options at both kicker and punter.”

Overview  
Montana State enters 2017 with unusual depth in specialty positions, with Luke Daly returning to the starting kicker role he held in 2014 and ’15. Last fall kicker Gabe Peppenger performed well in Daly’s absence, while Jered Padmos was a consistent and effective punter. Both return in 2017 as sophomores, as does reserve kicker Devon Tandberg. Long snapper Rocky Hogue is also back. One of MSU’s most accurate kickers ever, Daly is slated to hold kickoff and place-kicking chores, while Padmos is the starting punter.

Kicking Game Notes  
Luke Daly’s career field goal percentage of .750 is tied for third in school history as he returns from a season away from the program... Jered Padmos’ 76-yard punt against Western Oregon was the longest ever by a Bobcat freshman... freshman Kevin Kassis logged 12 of MSU’s 13 punt returns a season ago, and he returned four of those 13 for at least 20 yards.
### 2017 Montana State Football Roster

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<td>225 Fr 4V+</td>
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<td>Mac Bignell, LB</td>
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<td>Ryan Davis, TE</td>
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<td>230 Fr</td>
<td>Business, Billings, MT (Skyview)</td>
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<td>295 Sr 3V*</td>
<td>Business, Butte, MT (Butte)</td>
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</table>
# 2017 Bobcat Summer Depth Chart

## Offense

### LEFT TACKLE
- **55** Dylan Mahoney*** 6-6 285 Sr
- **Collin Hammock**

### LEFT GUARD
- **67** Jake McFetridge* 6-6 285 So
- **74** Wade Webster 6-6 305 Jr

### CENTER
- **70** Alex Neale* 6-3 290 Jr
- **69** Denver Krone 6-1 255 Fr

### RIGHT GUARD
- **73** Caleb Gillis*** 6-6 295 Sr
- **60** Taylor Tuiasosopo 6-3 315 Fr

### RIGHT TACKLE
- **63** Mitch Brott (like brought) 6-6 285 So
- **76** Lewis Kidd 6-0 220 Sr

### QUARTERBACK
- **8** Chris Murray* 6-2 180 So
- **14** Brady McChesney 5-11 180 So

### TAILBACK
- **23** Nick LaSaney*** (luh-SANE) 6-0 220 Sr
- **22** Noah James** 6-1 205 Jr
- **2** Jake Roper 5-11 190 Fr+

### X RECEIVER
- **82** Mitchell Herbert*** 6-4 210 Sr
- **81** Jabari Johnson 6-4 210 Jr+
- **20** Lance McCutcheon 6-3 190 Fr

### H RECEIVER
- **85** Kevin Kassis* (CASS-iss) 6-0 180 So
- **13** Karl Tucker II* 6-1 205 So

### Z RECEIVER
- **3** Justin Paige*** 5-11 166 Jr
- **86** Keon Stephens* (STEFF-uh-ns) 6-2 180 Fr+

### TIGHT END
- **80** Curtis Amos** 6-0 230 Jr
- **87** Connor Sullivan** 6-5 240 Jr
- **Wilson Brott** (like brought) 6-6 260 Jr

## Defense

### BUCK
- **41** Grant Collins** 6-4 230 Jr
- **91** Michael Jobman (JOB-man) 6-4 221 Fr

### TACKLE
- **96** Zach Wright* 6-2 260 So
- **50** Chase Benson 6-4 242 Fr

### NOSE
- **92** Tucker Yates** 6-0 300 Jr
- **56** Brandon Hayashi* (hi-YOSH-ee) 6-0 303 Sr+

### END
- **57** Tyrone Fa’anono** 6-2 270 Jr
- **95** Derek Marks* 6-1 245 So

### WILL
- **58** Josh Hill* 5-11 210 So
- **32** Jakob McCarthy* 6-2 220 Sr+

### MIKE
- **11** Lukas McCarthy* 6-1 220 Sr+
- **43** Walker Cozzie* (like cozy) 5-11 215 So

### SAM
- **49** Mac Bignell* 6-0 210 Jr
- **35** Balue Chapman (buh-LOO) 6-1 205 Fr

### FIELD CORNER
- **24** Bryce Alley*** 5-11 175Sr
- **10** Bryson McCabe** 6-0 190 Sr+

### FREE SAFETY
- **18** Brayden Konkol* 6-2 205 Fr
- **12** Khari Garcia*** (kuh-HAW-ree) 5-10 195 Sr

### STRONG SAFETY
- **27** Damien Washington* 5-10 180 So
- **5** Braulen Evans* (BRAY-luh) 6-0 185 Jr+

### BOUNDARY CORNER
- **56** Rocky Hogue** 6-3 220 Jr

*-letters won &-redshirted +-transfer returning starters in bold

## Specialists

### KICKOFFS
- **45** Luke Daly** 6-2 175 Sr
- **31** Gabe Peppenger*

### PLACEMENTS
- **45** Luke Daly** 6-2 175 Sr
- **31** Gabe Peppenger*

### PUNTS
- **40** Jered Padmos* 6-2 175 So
- **45** Luke Daly** 6-2 175 Sr

### KICK RETURNS
- **85** Kevin Kassis* (CASS-iss) 5-11 178 So

### PUNT RETURNS
- **85** Kevin Kassis (CASS-iss) 5-11 178 So

### LONG/SHORT SNAPS
- **56** Rocky Hogue** 6-3 220 Jr

### HOLDER
- **40** Jered Padmos* 6-2 175 So
1 at Washington State

Colors ........................................ Crimson, gray
Location ........................................ Pullman, WA
Enrollment ..................................... 19,756
Stadium ........................................ Martin Stadium/32,952
Head Coach .......................... Mike Leach
Alma Mater/Year ................ Washington (BYU)/00
Overall Record/Years .............. 113-81-16h
At School/Years ..................... 29-34/5th
2016 Record ................................. 8-5
Home/Neu ..................................... 5-2/3-2/0-1
Conference/Place ...................... 7-2
Series Record ............................... 0-8
at Bozeman ................................ 0-0
at Pullman .................................. 0-6
at Spokane .................................. 0-2
MSU vs. Mike Leach ................. 0-0
Jeff Choate vs. WSU ................. 0-0
Jeff Choate vs. Mike Leach .... 0-0
SID: Bill Stevens (wstevens@wsu.edu)
Phone: 509/355-4294

2 South Dakota State

Colors .......................................... Yellow, blue
Location ......................................... Brookings, SD
Enrollment .................................... 12,613
Stadium ......................................... Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium/13,340
Head Coach ............................... John Stiegelmeier
Alma Mater/Year ................ SDSU/’79
Overall Record/Years ............... 137-94-0/21st
At School/Years ....................... same
2016 Record ................................ 9-4
Home/Neu ..................................... 6-1-3-3
Conference/Place ..................... 7-1/1-3
Series Record ............................... 10-3
at Bozeman ................................ 4-1
at Brookings ............................... 3-1
at Great Falls ............................. 3-1
MSU vs. John Stiegelmeier ...... 1-1 (1-1/0-0)
Jeff Choate vs. SDSU ............... 0-0
Jeff Choate vs. John Stiegelmeier .. 0-0
SID: Jason Hove (jason.hove@sdstate.edu)
Phone: 605/688-4273(o), 605/695-5999(c)

3 at North Dakota

Colors .......................................... Kelly green, white
Location ........................................ Grand Forks, ND
Enrollment .................................... 13,927
Stadium ......................................... Alerus Center/12,283
Head Coach ............................... Bubba Schweigert
Alma Mater/Year ................ Jamestown/’85
Overall Record/Years ................ 42-34/8th
At School/Years .................... 21-14/4th
2016 Record ................................ 9-3
Home/Neu ..................................... 5-1/4-2
Conference/Place ..................... 8-0/T1st
Series Record ............................... 16-15-1
at Bozeman ................................ 11-6
at Opponent ............................... 7-8-1
at Pullman .................................. 0-0
MSU vs. Bubba Schweigert .... 1-2 (1-1/0-0)
Jeff Choate vs. UND ................. 0-0 (1-0-0)
Choate vs. Schweigert ............. 1-0 (1-0-0)
SID: Ryan Powell (ryan.Powell@athletics.und.edu)
Phone: 701/777-2986, cell 701/213-5921

4 Weber State

Colors ........................................... Purple, white
Location ........................................ Ogden, UT
Enrollment .................................... 28,809
Stadium ......................................... Stewart Stadium
Head Coach ............................... Jay Hill
Alma Mater/Year ................... Utah/’00
Overall Record/Years ............... 15-20/4th
At School/Years ....................... same
2016 Record ................................ 7-5
Home/Neu ..................................... 4-1/3-4
Conference/Place ...................... 6-2/3rd
Series Record ............................... 30-21-1
at Bozeman ................................ 15-9-1
at Ogden ...................................... 15-12
MSU vs. Jay Hill ....................... 1-1 (1-0/0-1)
Jeff Choate vs. WSU ................. 0-1 (0-0/0-1)
Jeff Choate vs. Jay Hill .......... 0-0 (0-0/0-1)
SID: Paul Grua (pgrua@weber.edu)
Phone: 801/626-6010(o), 801/452-3811(c)

5 Portland State

Colors .......................................... Green, white
Location ....................................... Portland, OR
Enrollment .................................... 29,057
Stadium ......................................... Providence Park (18,627)
Head Coach ............................... Bruce Barnum
Alma Mater/Year ................... Eastern Wash./’87
Overall Record/Years .............. 12-11/3rd
At School/Years ....................... same
2016 Record ................................ 3-8
Home/Neu ..................................... 2-3/1-5
Conference/Place ...................... 2-6/3/9th
Series Record ............................... 19-10
at Bozeman ................................ 13-1
at Portland .................................. 6-8
at Billings ..................................... 0-1
MSU vs. Bruce Barnum ...... 0-1 (0-0/0-1)
Jeff Choate vs. PSU ................ 0-0
Choate vs. Barnum .................. 0-0
SID: Mike Lund (lundm@pdx.edu)
Phone: 503/725-7562(o), 503/866-0236(c)

6 at Eastern Washington

Colors .......................................... Red, white
Location ....................................... Cheney, WA
Enrollment .................................... 12,361
Stadium ......................................... Roos Field/8,600
Head Coach ............................... Aaron Best
Alma Mater/Year ................ Eastern Wash./’01
Overall Record/Years .............. 0-0/1st
At School/Years ....................... 0-0/0-1
2016 Record ................................ 12-2
Home/Neu ..................................... 7-1/5-1
Conference/Place ...................... 8-0/1st
Series Record ............................... 10-30
at Bozeman ................................ 6-15
at Cheney .................................. 2-12
at Spokane .................................. 2-2
at Great Falls ............................. 0-1
MSU vs. Aaron Best ................. 0-0 (0-0/0-0)
Jeff Choate vs. EWU .............. 0-0 (0-0/0-0)
Choate vs. best ....................... 0-0 (0-0/0-0)
SID: Dave Cook (dcook@ewu.edu)
Phone: 509/359-6331(o), 509/280-2502(c)

7 at Northern Colorado

Colors .......................................... Blue, gold
Location ......................................... Greeley, CO
Enrollment .................................... 12,000
Stadium ......................................... Nottingham Field/8,533
Head Coach ............................. Earnest Collins Jr
Alma Mater/Year ................ Northern Colorado/’96
Overall Record/Years .............. 21-45/7th
At School/Years ....................... 29-58/9th
2016 Record ................................ 6-5
Home/Neu ..................................... 4-1/2-4
Conference/Place ...................... 4-4/1/6
Series Record ............................... 19-10-1
at Bozeman ................................ 11-4-1
at Greeley ...................................... 8-6-1
MSU vs. Earnest Collins ...... 1-0 (1-0/0-0)
Jeff Choate vs. UNC ................. 0-0
Jeff Choate vs. Collins ............. 0-0
SID: Kobe Stalder (kobe.stalder@unco.edu)
Phone: 970/351/1065(o)

8 Idaho State

Colors .......................................... Black, orange
Location ....................................... Pocatello, ID
Enrollment .................................... 14,489
Stadium ......................................... Holt Arena/12,000
Head Coach ............................ Rob Phenicie
Alma Mater/Year .................... Memphis/’89
Overall Record/Years .............. 0-0/1st
At School/Years ....................... same
2016 Record ................................ 2-9
Home/Neu ..................................... 2-3/0-6
Conference/Place ...................... 1-7/12th
Series Record ............................... 47-30-3
at Bozeman ................................ 28-9-1
at Pocatello .................................. 19-21-2
MSU vs. Rob Phenicie .......... 0-0
Jeff Choate vs. ISU ...................... 0-0
Jeff Choate vs. Rob Phenicie .... 0-0
SID: Steve Schaeck (schaeck4@isu.edu)
Phone: 208/282-4053(o), 208/406-3570(c)

9 Kennesaw State

Colors .......................................... Black, gold
Location ....................................... Kennesaw, GA
Enrollment .................................... 33,000
Stadium . Fifth Third Bank Stadium/8,300
Head Coach ............................. Brian Bohannon
Alma Mater/Year ................ Georgia/’93
Overall Record/Years .............. 14-8/3rd
At School/Years ....................... same
2016 Record ................................ 8-3
Home/Neu ..................................... 4-2/4-1
Conference/Place ...................... 3-2
Series Record ............................... 0-0
at Bozeman ................................ 0-0
at Opponent ............................... 0-0
MSU vs. Brian Bohannon .... 0-0
Jeff Choate vs. KSU ................. 0-0
Jeff Choate vs. Brian Bohannon .. 0-0
SID: Jake Dorow (jodorow@kennesaw.edu)
Phone: 470/578-2562(o)
10 at Northern Arizona

Colors ........................................Blue, gold
Location .................................. Flagstaff, AZ
Enrollment .................................. 30,383
Stadium ....................................Walkup Skydome
Head Coach .............................. Jerome Souers
Alma Mater/Year .................... Oregon/'83
Overall Record/Years .............112-83/20th
At School/Years .......................same
2016 Record ................................5-6
Home/Record .............................. 3-2/2-4
Conference/Place .....................4-4/T6th
Series Record ............................ 22-27
at Bozeman ..............................15-10
at Flagstaff .............................. 7-17
MSU vs. Jerome Souers ..........8-9 (5-4/3-5)
Jeff Choate vs. NAU ..............0-1 (0-1/0-0)
Choate vs. Jerome Souers ...0-1 (0-1/0-1)
SID: ........................................ Denise Thompson
............................. (denise.thompson@nau.edu)
Phone: . 928/523-6792, cell 512/216-3440

11 Montana

Colors .....................................Maroon, silver
Location ................................ Missoula, MT
Enrollment ................................ 13,358
Stadium .................................Washington-Grizzly 25,217
Head Coach ............................. Bob Stitt
Alma Mater/Year .................... Doane/'86
Overall Record/Years ............122-72/17th
At School/Years .......................14-10/3rd
2016 Record ................................6-5
Home/Record .............................. 5-1/1-4
Conference/Place .....................3-5/8th
Series Record ............................ 38-73-5
at Bozeman ...............................18-25-3
at Opponent ..............................17-30-1
at Butte ................................. 3-18-1
MSU vs. Bob Stitt .................1-1 (0-1/0-0)
Jeff Choate vs. UM ..............1-0 (0-0/1-0)
Jeff Choate vs. Bob Stitt .....0-1 (0-1/0-1)
SID: ........................................ Eric Taber
............................. Phone: 406/243-5402(o), 646/287-7492(c)

2016 Bobcat Honors

All-America Honors
Third Team: OG JP Flynn (STATS) Freshman All-America: QB Chris Murray (Hero Sports - 1st Team), OT Mitch Brott (Hero Sports - 1st Team)

Academic Honors
Hampshire Honor Society: RB Gunnar Brekke, RB Chad Newell

2016 Post-Season Honors
ALL-AMERICA
OG JP Flynn (3rd Team - STATS)
FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICA
QB Chris Murray (1st Team - Hero Sports), OT Mitch Brott (1st Team - Hero Sports)

COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT VII
WR Mitchell Herbert

BIG SKY SPECIAL AWARDS
Freshman of the Year: QB Chris Murray

ALL-BIG SKY
First Team: OG JP Flynn; Second Team: FB Chad Newell, LB Mac Bignell, S Bryson McCabe; Third Team: none; Honorable Mention: ST Joey Michael, DT Zach Wright, CB John Walker

ACADEMIC ALL-BIG SKY
Gunnar Brekke, Tyler Bruggman, Marcus Ferriter, Ben Folsom, Monte Folsom, Josh Hill, Kevin Kassis, Bryson McCabe, Chad Newell, Jered Padmos, Gabe Peppenger, Karl Tucker

2016 In-Season Honors
ROOT BIG SKY PLAYER OF THE WEEK
9/10 - John Walker (Defense), 11/19 - Josh Hill (Defense)

Previous Career Honors
LUKE DALY: Big Sky Player of the Week 11/16/15, 9/27/14

2016 Pre-Season Honors
STATS PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA
OG JP Flynn

PRESEASON ALL-BIG SKY
OG JP Flynn, RB Chad Newell, LB Mac Bignell

2016 Team Awards
Players Choice Awards
Sonny Holland Offensive MVP: Chad Newell
Bill Kollar Defensive MVP: Bryson McCabe
Jan Steenerud Special Teams MVP: Joey Michael
Don Hass Inspirational: Chad Newell

Coaches Choice Awards
Dennis Erickson Offensive: JP Flynn
Joe Tiller Defensive: Mac Bignell
Ken Amato Kick Teams: Brayden Konkol
Top Offensive Scout: Brady McChesney
Top Defensive Scout: Bailey Chapman
Top Kick Teams Scout: Koni Dole
Hayden Ferguson Academic Award: Matt Brownlow
Ride for the Brand: Gunnar Brekke
Young Gun Weight Room Award: Chase Benson
the COACHES
From small agriculture and logging communities in the mountains of Idaho to the bright lights of the SEC and Pac 12, Jeff Choate’s coaching career has led him from one corner of the nation to the other. But some constants remain.

The energy is unmistakable. The passion is ever-present. But what sets Choate apart is a commitment to teaching. “I think I’ve always considered myself a teacher first,” Montana State’s second-year coach says. “It’s the cornerstone of what we do as coaches.”

Choate became Montana State’s 32nd head football coach on December 4, 2015. An Idaho native who graduated from UM Western in 1994, his career has spanned the continent but is rooted in the Northwest. His professional life began as a coach and teacher in rural Idaho and has led him to the Mountain West, Pac 12 and SEC. All the while, the Big Sky Conference and his home region tugged.

Choate played football at Montana-Western in Dillon, earning his a BS in Secondary Education (1994). He joined the Bulldogs coaching staff for the 1992-93 season after an injury ended his playing career, and after graduating he became head football and track coach at Challis High School (1994-96) in Idaho. He became an assistant football, wrestling and baseball coach at Twin Falls High School (1996-97) before becoming Head Football Coach (and eventually AD) at Post Falls High School (1997-2002).

Choate joined his former UMW head coach Mick Dennehy at Utah State in 2002 as defensive line coach, and became safeties and special teams coach the next season. He held the same position at Eastern Illinois in 2005 before returning to the West as Boise State’s special teams coordinator (2006-11). He coached running backs (2006-08) and linebackers (2009-11) while with BSU. Choate coached linebackers while coordinating the defensive run game at Washington State in 2012, coached special teams and outside linebackers at Florida in 2013, then rejoined Chris Peterson at Washington in 2014-15.

While spending time with head coaches such as Chris Peterson, Mike Leach, Will Muschamp, Bob Spoo and his mentors Mick Dennehy and Mick Delaney, Choate has also produced highly successful players. Under his watch as a position coach, five players earned All-America honors and 16 became all-conference selections. Choate’s teams have participated in bowl games eight times and the FCS Playoffs once.

Choate and his wife Janet, originally from Dillon, have a son (Jory) and daughter (Jacy).

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### Coaches Resume

#### College Head Coach

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<th>Year</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Home</th>
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<td>2-6/197th</td>
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#### College Assistant Coach

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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Special Teams/Defensive Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Special Teams/Defensive Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Special Teams/Outside Linebackers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Washington State</td>
<td>Defensive Run Game Coord./LBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>Special Teams/Linebackers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>Special Teams/Linebackers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>Special Teams/Linebackers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>Special Teams/Running Backs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>Special Teams/Running Backs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>Special Teams/Running Backs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Eastern Illinois</td>
<td>Special Teams/Safeties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Utah State</td>
<td>Special Teams/Safeties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Utah State</td>
<td>Special Teams/Safeties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Utah State</td>
<td>Defensive Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td>UM Western</td>
<td>Linebackers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>UM Western</td>
<td>Linebackers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### High School Coach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997-2001</td>
<td>Post Falls (Idaho) High School</td>
<td>Head Football Coach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Twin Falls (Idaho High School</td>
<td>Assistant Football Coach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>Challis (Idaho) High School</td>
<td>Head Football Coach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Conference Championship Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>13-1 WAC Champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>14-0 WAC Champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>12-1 WAC Champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Boise State</td>
<td>13-0 WAC Champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Eastern Illinois</td>
<td>9-3 Ohio Valley Champions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Post-Season Appearances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Washington 44, Southern Miss 31 Washington 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Oklahoma State 30, Washington 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Boise State 56, Arizona State 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Boise State 26, Utah 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Boise State 17, TCU 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>TCU 17, Boise State 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>East Carolina 41, Boise State 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Boise State 43, Oklahoma 42 OT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Southern Illinois 21, Eastern Illinois 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Jeff Choate Personal & Coaching Summary

- **Hometown:** Saint Maries, Idaho
- **Family:** wife Janet, son Jory, daughter Jacy
- **Alma Mater/Year:** Montana Western’93
- **Career Record:** 4-7/1 year at MSU: same
The first phone conversations I remember,” Choate says of a call from his head coach, Mick Dennehy. “He was telling me, ‘You can come back here, no matter what happens we want you to be part of this thing going forward.’”

Dennehy, now retired from a coaching career that included a stint as an assistant MSU and a successful four seasons at Montana, remembers that visit with one of the first three players to join his . “I had heard that he had gotten into a pretty severe car wreck,” he said, “had gotten hit by a logging truck or some damn thing, so I just wanted to make sure he was OK and wanted him to know that things would work out one way or another. It was too early to know if he was going to be able to play, but that if he couldn’t we’d put him to work doing something else.”

A quarter-century later, Choate embarks on his first season as a head coach. He accepted the MSU job last December and in the time since then has altered the program’s culture, refueled its tank of talent, and installed new systems in all phases of the game. All the while he has connected with players and staff, fans and foes, with a high-voltage smile, a razor-like wit, and an undeniable, unavoidable energy.

“It’s so much fun,” says senior offensive guard JP Flynn with enthusiasm that matches his head coach. “There’s great energy. One of the first things Coach Choate did when he got here was mix up the entire locker room. It used to be divided up by positions, now my locker is next to (linebacker) Josh Hill and (receiver) Keon Stephens. That’s a big change. He’s bringing together the whole team into one unit and make sure we don’t miss this opportunity (to make lifelong friendships).”

He didn’t know it at the time but the roots of his self-described “player’s coach” style, a label enthusiastically affirmed by current Bobcats, began growing during the time after his the car wreck. Rather than returning to Dillon immediately and a sophomore season full of promise – “I really believe he would have become a hell of a college football player,” Dennehy insists – Choate headed to Boise and countless hours of solitary rehabilitation.

“I took some classes at Boise State that fall because my dad was down there,” he remembers. “I stayed with my dad and did my rehab. (Returning to Western) is what motivated me through the rehab process, which was grueling. I’d done so much damage to my knee, I had limited range of motion, and I went to physical therapy five days a week. They manipulated it. I didn’t have anybody to work out with, didn’t have any teammates, so that’s what motivated me.”

Through that dark, tedious time a vision emerged. “A lot of times positive things can come out of real negative or tragic situations,” Choate says, “and that helped me formulate that vision for my own life. There were times that I would say, ‘What if football isn’t an option?’ (Playing football) drove me and motivated me, but that’s when I centered on the idea that I want to teach and coach.”

Choate returned to Western as a player in 1991, but the end came quickly. “I tore up my (injured left) knee again, and that made me realize it was time to hang up my cleats.” Dennehy’s response was equally swift. “We gave him a camera and said, ‘Let’s go.’”

Armed with only one full-time assistant coach, Dennehy utilized the services of many young men hoping to break into that business. “They were all going to be coaches,” Dennehy said, “and hopefully they learned a little bit along the way from some of us older guys, but they knew how to block and they knew how to tackle and the teaching part of it came pretty easy for Jeff.”

So did the transition. “(Choate) changed hats really quickly, and teaching kids his own age didn’t affect him a bit. They respected him. He chewed their butts out if they needed it. There aren’t a lot of guys like him that I feel could do that, and he was very effective right away.”

Following his time at Western, Choate embarked on a successful career as a high school teacher, administrator, and coach. His resume reads like a geography lesson for the state of Idaho, beginning in Challis in 1994 and including stops in Twin Falls and Post Falls. But in 2002, he needed to address a long-latent urge.

Just as the first call he received after his accident was from Dennehy, the first one he placed went to his first college head coach. “He called me when he was the head coach and (athletic director) at Post Falls and said, ‘I really want to get into college coaching and the only avenue to do it is to get in on the ground floor,’” said Dennehy, then the head coach at Utah State. “Do you have a spot?” I told him, ‘I’ll make a spot, but the only thing is I can’t promise there will be a full-time opportunity the next year or the year after, or what have you. You’re taking a real chance.’ I told him, ‘I’d love to have you, but make sure you sit down and think hard about (the financial and family considerations) because you’re giving up a lot.’ A couple days later he said, ‘Yeah, I’ve got to do it.’”

The decision to leave the comfort of his career was not easy, but had become increasingly clear to Choate. “If I hadn’t got into administration (as athletic director) I might still be coaching in high school,” he said. “It took me out of the classroom and there was so much involved outside of coaching, like making sure courts and fields were ready, making sure the officials showed up, that it made me realize what I really enjoyed was coaching and teaching.”

Choate added responsibility in each of his three seasons at Utah State, rising from graduate assistant helping with a position group to position coach to coordinating special teams. That experience accentuated trends that would become characteristics of his career, specifically the willingness to grow as a coach and accept increased duties, and the acuity to manage both people and tasks. Those traits served him well in the special teams area. “I’ve got two (former assistants) who are special teams coordinators in the NFL,” Dennehy says, “and I think Jeff is every bit as qualified and as talented.”
Bobcat Coach Jeff Choate...


Skills gained coaching special teams, long considered by many in college football as a precursor to head coaching success, stand out while watching Choate prepare his Bobcat teams. “The key ingredient in being able to put special teams together is being organized as hell,” Dennehy says, a trait that is often most recognizable during times fans never see. “You’ve got to get 50 minutes of (special teams work) into 20 minutes of practice time, and he’s really, really good at that and (at) moving from one phase of a drill to the next phase and utilizing staff to help him. Sometimes it’s like a magic show, and he’s as good as anyone I’ve ever seen.”

The accumulation of skill, knowledge, and personal history gives Choate what Washington coach Chris Peterson has referred to as “the ‘it’ factor” that rarely presents itself in a coach. Dennehy says that “…if you just sit down and visit with him you can tell, damn, this would be a fun guy to play for.” When asked if Choate is a players’ coach, Bobcat senior Flynn, a fourth-year starter at guard, laughs before listing among his new coach’s strongest traits the willingness to “listen to us players.”

His energy and enthusiasm were present for as long as anyone can remember. One of Choate’s high school baseball coaches tells stories of Choate encouraging his sons to splash in mud puddles after rainy practices, meeting each scolding with infectious laughter, while Dennehy confirms that “he was a pretty high-strung dude” during his time in Dillon. Wally Feldt, currently the Frontier Conference Information Director and a presence in and around UMW Athletics since Choate’s playing days remembers that Choate “seems to perpetually (have) a smile on his face. He’s so dang positive about everything. And it hasn’t changed in all the times I’ve seen him over the years.”

That ability to connect with people through life’s small moments has, if anything, become more acute through time. MSU offensive line coach Brian Armstrong’s college playing career was beginning at Montana Western during Choate’s days coaching there. “I was just a young guy trying to find my own way, but even though he was on the other side of the ball there was no question how important (players were to Choate) on a personal level. That’s something I’ve always respected about him.”

Dennehy calls that personal touch a difference-maker. “He’s a great football coach. And he’ll be a great head coach.”

...at Washington, 2014-15
(Head Coach Chris Peterson)

- Led the Pac 12 in total defense and scoring defense in 2015
- School-record 52 sacks, 2nd in nation
- 2014 Cactus Bowl, 2015 Zaxby’s Heart of Dallas Bowl

ALL-AMERICAS COACHED: Danny Shelton (2014), Hau’oli Kikaha (2014)
# ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS COACHED: 2

...at Boise State, 2006-11
(Head Coach Chris Peterson)

- Helped BSU to 4 bowl wins, 2 in Fiesta Bowl
- Broncos finished in the Top 25 four times, won five MWC titles
- Top 15 in points allowed during all four seasons coaching defense

ALL-AMERICAS COACHED: Ian Johnson (2006), # ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS COACHED: 2

...at Eastern Illinois, 2005
(Head Coach Bob Spoo)

- Panthers 9-3, 15th in I-AA
- Won Ohio Valley (8-0)
# ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS COACHED: 2, including OVC Special Teams Newcomer of the Year

...at Florida, 2013
(Head Coach Will Muschamp)

- Finished 8th nationally, 2nd in the SEC, in total defense
# ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS COACHED: 2

...at Washington State, 2012
(Head Coach Mike Leach)

- 8th nationally in tackles-for-loss, 11th in sacks
- Led Pac 12 in red zone defense
# ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS COACHED: 1

...at Utah State, 2003-04
(Head Coach Mick Dennehy)

- 2004 Aggies one of six DI programs in top 30 of three special teams categories
- Led DI in punt returns in ‘04, 25th in pass D in ‘05

ALL-AMERICAS COACHED: Kevin Robinson (2004), Terrance Washington (2003 Frosh All-America)
# ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS COACHED: 2
Ty Gregorak
Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers

Personal Information
Birth Date: September 12, 1978
Hometown: Spokane, WA
Education: BA in Communication, Colorado, 2001
Player: Linebacker at Colorado, 1997-2000
Family: Wife Kandice, sons Gage (9), Jax (2); daughter Gabby (4)

Timeline
2016- Montana State Defensive Coord./LBs (2017-)
2010 Central Wash. Tight Ends
2003-09 Montana Linebackers
2001-02 Washington Graduate Assistant

Team Accomplishments
**Montana State** – Under Gregorak’s direction, MSU allowed 84 yards and 9.2 points per game fewer in 2016 than the team did in 2015... the Bobcat rush defense improved by 102 yards a game, pass defense efficiency by 26.3 points, interceptions by seven, opponent third down conversion rate by 6 percentage points.... MSU’s defense finished in top three of Big Sky rankings in five categories (scoring, yards allowed, rush yards allowed, pass defense efficiency, and opponent third down conversion rate).

**Montana** – Gregorak’s defenses (coordinator 2012-15, linebackers coach 2003-09 and 2011-15) led the Big Sky in total defense three times (2006, ’07 and ’11), rush defense three times (2006, ’07 and ’11), pass defense four times (2003, ’06, 11 and ’12), pass defense twice (2006, ’08), and scoring defense seven times (2005-09, ’11, ’14)... UM won or shared eight Big Sky titles during Gregorak’s 12 seasons, advancing to the FCS Playoffs 11 times, the semifinals five times, and the championship game three times... UM led the Big Sky in red zone defense in 2013-14-15... Montana won 123 games in 12 seasons with Gregorak on staff.

**Washington** – Coached in 2001 Holiday Bowl, 2002 Sun Bowl

Individual Achievements
**Montana State** – LB Mac Bignell and S Bryson McCabe each earned 2nd Team All-Big Sky honors, the highest each has received.

**Montana** – Three of Montana’s 10 all-time tackles leaders played LB from 2003-15, and Gregorak coached five of the top 10 and the school’s all-time single-season leader (Kendrick Van Ackeren... NFL linebackers Brock Coyle, Jordan Tripp and Caleb McSurdy played for Gregorak... defensive end Zack Wagenmann (2014) and linebacker Caleb McSurdy (2011) each won Big Sky Defensive Player of the Year honors playing for Gregorak... defensive end Tyrone Holmes won 2015 STATS FCS Defensive Player of the Year... Jeremiah Kose helped lead his Ottawa team to the 2016 Grey Cup.

All-Americas Coached as Position Coach

All-Conf. Players Coached as Position Coach
2015: Herbert Gamboa, OLB (1st Team), Kendrick Van Ackeren, OLB (2nd Team), Jeremiah Kose, LB (2nd Team)
2014: Kendrick Van Ackeren, OLB (2nd Team), Jeremiah Kose, LB (3rd Team), Herbert Gamboa, OLB (HM)
2013: John Kanangata’a, OLB (1st Team); Jordan Tripp, OLB (1st Team), Brock Coyle, LB (2nd Team)
2012: Jordan Tripp, OLB (1st Team), Brock Coyle, LB (HM), John Kanangata’a, OLB (HM)
2011: Caleb McSurdy, LB (1st Team), John Kanangata’a, LB (2nd Team), Alex Shaw, LB (HM)
2010: Demetrias Guice, TE (1st Team)
2009: Shawn Lebsock, LB (1st Team), Cole Lockwood, LB (1st Team), Brandon Fisher, LB (2nd Team)
2008: Tom Martin, LB (2nd Team), Shawn Lebsock, LB (HM), Brandon Fisher, LB (HM), Tyler Corwin, LB (HM)
2007: Loren Utterback, LB (1st Team), Tyler Joyce, LB (2nd Team), Kyle Ryan, LB (HM), Muckie Foreman, LB (HM)
2006: Tyler Joyce, LB (HM), Kyle Ryan, LB (HM), Loren Utterback, LB (HM)
2005: Shane McIntyre, LB (2nd Team), Tyler Joyce, LB (HM), Kyle Ryan, LB (HM)
2004: Shane McIntyre, LB (1st Team)
2003: Brent Meyers, OLB (1st Team)

Playing Career
Three-year letterman at Colorado... Lee Willard Award in 1997 as program’s top freshman... Academic All-Big 12, 2000... played in and won 1998 Aloha Bowl, 1999 Insight.com Bowl

Recruiting Area: Western Washington, Minnesota
Brian Armstrong
Offensive Coordinator/Tight Ends

Personal Information
Birth Date: September 24, 1973
Hometown: East Helena, MT
Education: BS, Elementary Education, Western Montana, 1998; MHPER, Utah State, 2004
Player: Western Montana, 1992-95; 1st Team All-America, 1995; played for three Frontier Conference Championship teams
Family: Wife Julie, son Michael (13), daughter Alissa (10)

Timeline
2009-15 Rocky Mountain Head Coach
2007-08 Rocky Mountain Offensive Coord./OL
2005-06 Kathleen HS (FL) Head Coach
2003-04 Utah State Offensive GA
2001-02 Lake Gibson HS (FL) HC ('02)/OC ('01)
1999-00 Broadwater HS (MT) Offensive Coord.
1998 Morgan (Utah) HS Offensive Coord.
1996-97 Western Montana Offensive Line

Coaching Honors and Achievements
Rocky Mountain – 2010 Frontier Conference Coach of the Year, 2013 Frontier Conference Coach of the Year... second on Rocky Mountain’s all-time wins lost as head coach.

Team Accomplishments
Montana State – Coached offensive line for team that finished 17th in the FCS in rushing offense, 14th in red zone offense
Rocky Mountain – The 2013 Battlin’ Bears advanced to the NAIA Playoffs.

Individual Achievements
Montana State – OG JP Flynn earned 3rd Team All-America, 1st Team All-Big Sky, signed with San Francisco 49ers

All-Americas Coached

All-Conference Players Coached
24 1st Team All-Conference players; at MSU: 2016-OG JP Flynn

B.J. Robertson
Special Teams Coordinator/High School Relations

Personal Information
Birth Date: September 5, 1974
Hometown: Sheridan, MT
Player: Player, Montana Western, 1993-94

Timeline
2016- Montana State Special Teams/Tight Ends
2013-15 UM Western Head Coach
2007-12 Rocky Mountain Assistant Coach
2006 Southern Oregon Assistant Coach

Team Accomplishments
Montana State – MSU finished in the top 25 nationally in all major special teams statistical categories, and did so with freshmen at both kicker and punter... 15th in the FCS in punt return defense (4.4 yards per return), 15th in punt returns (13.2 yards per return), 18th in net punting (37.9), 23rd in kick return defense (18.2), 25th in kick returns (21.8).

Montana Western – Robertson’s UMW teams compiled 17-14 record, including a 6-5 mark in 2014 for the Bulldogs’ first winning season in 10 years... Western finished 7-3 in 2015.

Individual Achievements
Montana State – Freshman returner Kevin Kassis finished 5th in the FCS in punt return yards (12.8)

All-Americas Coached

All-Conference Players Coached
Coached 41 players to all-conference honors
2016 - Joey Michael named All-Big Sky Honorable Mention on special teams

Playing Career
Played at UM Western, 1993-94

Recruiting Area: Florida, San Diego
Michael Pitre
Recruiting Coordinator/Running Backs

Personal Information
Birth Date  January 3, 1985 in Fontana, CA
Hometown   Fontana, CA
Education   BA in History, UCLA, 2008, MEECD, Colorado, ‘16
Player      Three-year starting fullback at UCLA (2003-07)
Family      Wife Tara, daughter Ashlynn Kay Pitre (3)

Timeline
2014-  Montana State  Running Backs
2012-13  Colorado  Offensive GA
2009-11  Servite (Calif.) HS  Assistant
2008  Santa Margarita (Calif.) HS  Assistant

Team Accomplishments
2016 – MSU finished 17th in the FCS in rushing (212.0)...
2015 – MSU finished 18th in the FCS in rushing yards (216.0)
2014 – The team rushed for 244.4 yards per game, 7th in the FCS, and advanced to the FCS Playoffs... MSU’s 38.2 points a game was 11th in the FCS... MSU’s 43 rushing touchdowns and 3,177 rushing yards in 2014 were set school records.

Individual Achievements
2016 – Chad Newell finished 10th in school history in rushing yards and 2nd in career rushing touchdowns (32), earning 2nd Team All-Big Sky honors
2015 – Chad Newell earned 2nd Team All-Big Sky honors at fullback
2014-15 – RBs Anthony Knight (2014) and Chad Newell (2015) each rushed for 12 touchdowns in a season, tied for 7th in a season in school history, and Newell’s 21 career rushing touchdowns is tied for eighth entering his senior season.
2014 – RB Shawn Johnson set single-game and career all-purpose yardage records... RB Chad Newell scored five touchdowns in an FCS Playoff game against South Dakota State to tie a school record

All-Confs. Players Coached as Position Coach
2016  Chad Newell (2nd Team)
2015  Chad Newell (3rd Team)
2014  Shawn Johnson (3rd Team)

Playing Career
Three-year starter at fullback for UCLA... Maurice Jones-Drew’s blocking back

Recruiting Area: Inland Empire/High Desert of California, Orange County

Joshua Taufalele
Offensive Line

Personal Information
Player      Foothill College 2006-07, all-conference and all-state as sophomore... 24-game starter, two-time All-MWC, team’s top O-lineman as senior at New Mexico (2008-09)
Family      Wife Fuatino, sons Bayley and Reign

Timeline
2017- Montana State  Offensive Line
2016  Foothill College  Off. Coord./Offensive Line
2014-15  Washington  GA (Offensive Line)
2010-13  Foothill College  Offensive Line

Coaching Honors and Achievements
Rocky Mountain – 2010 Frontier Conference Coach of the Year, 2013 Frontier Conference Coach of the Year... second on Rocky Mountain’s all-time wins lost as head coach.

Team Accomplishments
Washington – GA for back-to-back bowl teams

Individual Achievements
Foothill – OG JP Flynn earned 1st Team All-Big Sky

All-Americas Coached

All-Conference Players Coached
24 1st Team All-Conference players

Playing Career
New Mexico – Started 24 straight games in 2008-09 seasons, earning Academic All-Mountain West honors twice... named UNM’s top offensive lineman in 2009
Foothill – Starting offensive lineman for back-to-back 10-1 teams, earning all-state and all-league honors as sophomore in 2007

Recruiting Area: Northern California
DEFENSIVE ASSISTANT COACHES

Matt Miller
Wide Receivers

Personal Information
Birth Date: May 1, 1991
Hometown: Helena, MT
Education: BA in Business, Boise State, 2014
Player: Boise State letterman 2011-14, team captain 2014

Timeline
2016-: Montana State Receivers
2015: Boise State Offensive Quality Control

Team Accomplishments

Playing Career
Four-year letterman at Boise State, 2011 Freshman All-America, 2012 2nd Team All-Mountain West, 2013 Hawai’i Bowl MVP, 2009 Montana Gatorade Player of the Year

Recruiting Area: Southwest Montana, southern Idaho, Oregon

Byron Hout
Defensive Line

Personal Information
Birth Date: September 15, 1989
Hometown: Coeur d’Alene, ID
Education: BA in Communications, Boise State, 2012; ME in Early and Special Education, Boise State, 2014
Player: Boise State letterman (2008-11, two-year starter)

Timeline
2016-: Montana State Defensive Line
2013-15: Boise State Defensive GA
2012: Washington St. Defensive GA

Team Accomplishments as Coach
Boise State – Coached in Fiesta Bowl following 2013 season

Individual Achievements as Coach

All-Conf. Players Coached as Position Coach
2016: DT Zach Wright (HM)
2015: DL Kamalei Correa, Boise State
2014: DL Kamalei Correa, Boise State

Playing Career
Played in Fiesta Bowl following 2009 season... compiled 50-3 all-time record as Boise State player... four-year letterman (2008-11), two-year starter (2010-11)... 2nd Team All-MWC in 2010, HM All-MWC in 2011... won BSU’s The Hammer Award in 2011.

Recruiting Area: Northwest Montana, northern Idaho, Washington

DeNarius McGhee
Quarterbacks

Personal Information
Birth Date: June 12, 1991
Hometown: McComb, MS
Education: BA in Business, Montana State, 2014
Player: Texas Southern, 2007-10

Timeline
2017-: Montana State Receivers
2015-16: North Carolina St Offensive Quality Control
2014: Florida Atlantic Offensive GA

Team Accomplishments
NC State – Helped Wolf Pack to 2015 Belk Bowl, 2016 Independence Bowl, with 7-6 record in 2015 and 6-6 mark in 2016
Montana State – 2010-11-12 Big Sky Champions

Playing Career
Four-year starter, leading MSU to Big Sky titles in 2010-11-12... Big Sky MVP in 2010 and ‘12... 2012 All-America... led MSU to best four-year stretch in school history, with most career wins as a quarterback by any Bobcat... became college football’s 14th player ever to throw for over 10,000 yards and rush for 1,000

Recruiting Area: Dallas

Mark Orphey
Secondary

Personal Information
Birth Date: July 22, 89
Hometown: Houston, TX
Education: Bachelor’s, Business Admin., Texas Southern, 2010; Master’s, Health Information Technology, 2015
Player: Texas Southern, 2007-10

Coaching Timeline
2017-: Montana State.................................Secondary
2011-12: Texas Southern.................................Cornerbacks
**Team Accomplishments**

*South Carolina* – Helped Gamecocks to three bowl games in four seasons (2013 Capital One Bowl, 2014 Independence Bowl, 2016 Birmingham Bowl), and the team’s third straight 11-win season in 2013... USC earned two of its 12 all-time bowl wins during Orphey’s time there.

**All-Conference Players Coached**


*Texas Southern* - 2012: Tray Walker; 2011: Jerome Thomas

**All-America Players Coached**

2012: Tray Walker, Texas Southern

**Playing Career**

Three-year starter at Texas Southern, earning All-SWAC honors in 2009-10 (junior and senior seasons)

**Recruiting Area**

Los Angeles, Houston

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**Kyle Risinger**

Secondary Assistant (Safeties)

**Personal Information**

*Birth Date:* June 22, 1990  
*Hometown:* Minnetonka, MN  
*Education:* St. Cloud State, 2015

**Player:** All-Northern Sun Honorable Mention as a senior in 2014... 200 tackles in his three-year career, with eight interceptions... 15 career pass breakups was in St. Cloud State’s career top 10 upon his graduation... began his college career playing basketball at Minnesota-Crookston in 2009-10.

**Timeline**

2016- Montana State  
2015 Indiana State  
Safeties (2017-), Intern (2016)  
Graduate Assistant

**Individual Achievements as Coach**

*Montana State* – Helped coach Bryson McCabe, 2nd Team All-Big Sky safety in 2016

**Recruiting Area:** Colorado, Minnesota

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**Joe Dunning**

Offensive Intern

Former Carroll College star Joe Dunning begins his second season at MSU, his first as an offensive intern, in 2017. Dunning spent three seasons on the Saints coaching staff (2013-15), including the last two as secondary coach, and worked as a volunteer assistant at MSU in 2016. Originally from Billings, Dunning redshirted at Carroll in 2008 before beginning a productive four-season career. He was a team co-captain in 2012, earning All-Frontier Conference honors in 2011-12. He helped lead the Saints to the 2010 NAIA National Championship and the 2011 title game. Dunning was Eastern AA Co-Defensive Player of the Year and all-state in 2007 as a senior, helping lead Billings Senior to a 10-3 mark.

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**Kendrick Van Ackeren**

Defensive Intern

Kendrick Van Ackeren begins his first season as MSU’s defensive intern after an outstanding playing career at the University of Montana. Van Ackeren started in all three of his seasons at UM (2013-15), earning 2nd Team All-Big Sky honors as a junior and senior and setting a school record for tackles in a season with 130 in 11 games as a senior. He began his playing career at Hawai’i, earning Defensive Scout of the Year as a redshirt in 2011 before recording 25 tackles as a redshirt freshman in 2012. He earned Seattle Times 3A Washington Player of the Year honors as a prep star at Bellevue (Washington) High School in 2010, leading the Wolverines to their third straight state title and a 13-1 record. He was a three-time all-state selection.

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**Ryan Saparto**

Special Teams Intern

Originally from Everett, Washington, Ryan Saparto begins his second season on the Bobcat staff in 2017. He was a long snapper at Washington State from 2011-13 after playing one season at Victor Valley College. He was a student assistant at Washington State from 2013-15, joining the University of Washington staff as a volunteer intern for the 2015 season.
Cole Moore
Administrative Assistant

Cole Moore returned to the Bobcat football program in the fall of 2016 as an administrative associate, and has helped spearhead the program’s recruiting and social media efforts. He returned to MSU after spending the 2015 campaign as an intern at the University of Washington. A two-year starting linebacker for the Bobcats originally from Whitehouse Station, N.J., he was Honorable Mention All-Big Sky as a junior and Third Team as a senior. Moore was a team captain for the Cats as a senior in 2014. He participated in Habitat for Humanity service trips overseas as a college student, and will lead a group of Bobcats to Poland for a similar trip in May.

Garrett Becker
Bobcat Athletics Video Coordinator

Garrett Becker begins his second season the Coordinator of Video Services for Bobcat Athletics, but is no stranger to the Department. He joined Bobcat Football’s video staff in 2004, rising to progressively higher roles within the program in the ensuing decade. He has coordinated practice and game video for internal coaching use as well as footage for promotional uses, such as run-out and pre-game hype videos. During his time as Video Coordinator he has filled wide-ranging roles, aiding the program in areas such as social media and recruiting.

Brittney Johnson
Administrative Assistant

Brittney Johnson, a 2011 graduate of Boise State, begins her second season as Operations Director for the Bobcat football program. Her career began as an undergraduate operations intern at BSU, where she earned her Bachelor’s degree in Mass Communication in 2011 and aided the 2007 and 2010 Fiesta Bowl teams. She worked from 2012-14 on the Denver Broncos Marketing and Promotions staff and worked as a Female Fan Initiatives Consultant for the Minnesota Vikings from 2014-16. She has presented at national seminars such as the 2016 NCAA Inclusion Conference.
the PLAYERS
2015 BOBCAT RETURNERS

24 Cornerback Bryce Alley

5-11, 180, Sr, 3V, Houston, TX (North Shore)

Montana State (2017) Enters his senior season as a starting corner. (2016) Played in 10 games at corner for the Cats, starting the last two... registered 22 total tackles (13 solo), with 0.5 for a loss... logged a season-high four tackles each against Bryant and UC Davis. (2015) Played in 10 games, starting three... career-high four tackles against Idaho State... nabbed first career pick vs. FLC in opener, his first start. (2014) Played in eight games after being activate from redshirt status for the Eastern Washington game... logged his only solo tackle of the season against Weber State, and pitched in with an assist in his debut against Eastern... a special teams contributor.

High School Earned Class 5A All-District 21 honorable mention honors as a senior, helping North Shore to a 13-1 record… two-year letterman, one-year starter.

Academics A construction engineering technology major.

Personal Born Bryce Logan Alley on Oct. 9, 1995 in Houston… the only child of Gennie Alley.

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80 Tight End Curtis Amos

6-1, 235, Jr, 2V, Burleson, TX (Centennial)

Montana State (2017) After an outstanding spring and summer, begins the fall as a key component in MSU’s offense as a move tight end. (2016) Played in nine games for the Bobcats… registered one catch (8 yards) as a reserve tight end... also excelled on kick teams. (2015) Played in eight games, primarily on special teams... five tackles on kick teams... no offensive statistics. (2014) Redshirted at MSU.

High School Caught 24 passes for 469 yards (19.5 per catch) with nine touchdowns as a senior... Class 4A All-District 8 First Team selection at tight end, and First Team All-Johnson Country... TexasHSFootball.com All-Star... ranked 47th on the Texas Top 100 preseason list by InsideTexas.com, and the ninth-ranked tight end prospect in the state by Texas-247 Sports... caught 26 passes for 334 yards and four touchdowns as a junior... two-time all-district basketball player, earning All-Johnson County honors as a senior... school-record 236 rebounds as a senior.

Academics A community health major.

Personal Born Curtis Tyrone Amos, Jr., on November 3, 1995 in Fort Worth, Tex... one of two children of Curtis Sr. and Pauletha Amos... younger sister Kertisa is an accomplished athlete.
15 Running Back
Troy Andersen

6-3, 220, Fr, HS, Dillon, MT (Beaverhead)

Montana State (2017) Moved to running back before fall camp and figures into the rotation there as a first-year frosh.

High School Helped lead Beaverhead to Class A title games as a junior and senior, winning the 2016 championship... Class A All-State quarterback as a junior and senior... All-USA Montana First Team Safety and Defensive Player of the Year... Great Falls Tribune Super-State 2015 and 2016... Southwest Class A Offensive MVP the past two seasons... threw for 1,403 yards last fall, rushing for 877 and accounting for 30 total touchdowns... 71 tackles with three interceptions and two fumbles recovered... competed for the track and field and basketball teams.

Academics Maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout his high school career, earning Academic All-State honors all four years... Class Valedictorian... an engineering major.

Personal The son of Scott and Nicole Andersen... his father played basketball at Eastern Oregon, while sister Holly ran track for the Cats... played for Rick Nordahl at Beaverhead County High.

68 Offensive Line
Jared Asche

6-8, 300, Fr, RS, Glendive, MT (Dawson Co.)


High School Earned first team all-conference honors during his junior season at tight end and at tackle as a senior... also an all-state defensive end as a senior... two-time all-conference basketball player who earned all-state honors as a senior... all-conference tennis player twice, who earned all-state honors during a senior season in which he finished third in the State A meet in doubles.

Academics A civil engineering major.

Personal One of two children of Rodney Asche and Marta Asche... his sister Devyn played basketball at South Dakota School of Mines... his cousin Cody Asche starred in baseball at Nebraska and currently plays for the Chicago White Sox... born in Glendive, Montana... former prep teammates include Rocky Mountain football players Tanner and Taylor Schwartz, Dickinson State football players Carson Oakland and Taylor Conrad, Dawson Community College basketball player Bret Vester and baseball players Gunnar Garpstead and Josh Hoffer.

14 Defensive Back
Keaton Anderson

6-0, 175, Fr, HS, Billings, MT (Senior)

Montana State (2017) A talented secondary prospect who could see action as a true freshman.

High School Helped Senior to its first Class AA state title in more than 30 years as a senior, with the Broncos finishing 13-0... First Team Class AA All-State as a safety in 2015 and 2016, earning Defensive MVP honors last fall... picked off six passes, returning two for touchdowns, as a senior... two-time state runner-up in the long jump and high jump for Billings Senior... two-time honor roll student.

Academics Enrolled in University Studies.

Personal Born Keaton Don Anderson in Billings... one of two children, including twin sister Mariah, of Gary and Stephanie Anderson... his grandfather Skip Anderson played football at Colorado State.
Chase Benson
6-4, 265, Fr, RS, Helena, MT (Helena)


High School  Selected for the Montana Shrine Game... an All-USA Montana First Team choice, logging six sacks in seven games with 22 quarterback hurries... earned 2014 and 2015 Great Falls Tribune Superstate honors.

Academics  An exercise science major.

Personal  Born Chase Michael Benson in Helena... one of three children of Dave and Brandi Benson.

Mac Bignell
6-1, 218, Sr, 3V, Drummond, MT (Drummond)

Montana State  (Career) His eight fumbles forced in his career is tied for 1st in MSU history, and his four fumbles recovered is tied for 8th... his 35 career tackles-for-loss is 1st from cracking the Big Sky career list in that category. (2017) Enters the fall as MSU’s starting Sam linebacker, but he possesses positional flexibility within the linebacker corps... Preseason STATS FCS All-America and All-Big Sky... has started 22 straight games for the Cats. (2016) 2nd Team All-Big Sky, starting all 11 games and leading the Cats in with 97 tackles... his 3.5 tackles-per-game was 7th in the Big Sky and his 1.32 tackles-for-loss per game stood 3rd... recorded 15 tackles, two for a loss, against Eastern Washington, and reached double-digits in that category in five games... Preseason All-Big Sky selection.  (2015) Started all 11 games in his breakout season, leading the team with 101 tackles and 20.5 for loss... led the Big Sky in tackles for loss and solo tackles per game (6.5), finishing among the top 10 in the FCS in each category... second in the Big Sky (ninth nationally) with 0.36 forced fumbles per game... 10 or more tackles in six games... four tackles-for-loss in each of the last two games (ISU, UM)... relegated to All-Big Sky Honorable Mention list in spite of leading the league in solo tackles and tackles-for-loss... a hit made on FLC’s PJ Hall to break up a second-quarter pass was featured on many national media outlets and was a SportsCenter Top Play. (2014) A special teams standout who proved productive defensively when called upon... logged his first career pass breakup against Black Hills State... caused and recovered an Arkansas State fumble in his Bobcat debut... forced a fumble at UC Davis. (2013) Redshirted.

High School  Earned Class C Eight-Man All-State honors as a senior, throwing for 1,053 yards (85-149-3 with 9 TDs) and rushing for 1,540 yards on 266 carries with 44 touchdowns... 197 tackles with 10 interceptions and three fumble recoveries as a senior.

Academics  A business major.

Personal  Born Maclane Bignell on May 12, 1994... the son of Joe and Patti Bignell... the brother of Bobcat defensive lineman Nate Bignell and son of former MSU All-America tight end... cousins Clay and Brian each starred on the MSU defense.

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2016 Season Stats
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BU * 8 2 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
WOU * 4 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UND * 8 3 3 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
SAC * 6 4 3 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0
NAU * 4 3 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
WSU * 5 4 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
EWU * 13 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
SUU * 4 3 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
UCD * 3 4 0.5 0 0 0 2 1 1 0 0 0
UM * 0 6 1.0 0.5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

2015 Season Stats
FLC * 7 0 2 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
EWU * 4 7 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
CP * 4 6 1.5 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0
NAU * 4 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
SAC * 9 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
PSU * 9 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
ETSU * 6 4 3 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0
UND * 8 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0
SUU * 4 0 1 1 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0
ISU * 5 4 4 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0
UM * 10 1 4 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0

2014 Season Stats
ASU  1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
BHSU  1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UCA  Did not play
EWU  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UND  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
SAC  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UCD  1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
WSU  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
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ISU  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UM  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
SDSU  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Offensive Tackle
Mitch Brott
6-6, 290, So, 1V, Billings, MT (West)

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall as MSU’s starting right tackle. (2016) Freshman All-America... enjoyed an exceptional freshman season, starting seven games at right tackle and four games at left. (2015) Redshirted at MSU.

High School First Team all-conference and second team all-state... chosen for Montana Shrine Game.

Academics Enrolled in University Studies.

Personal One of three children of Curt and Gina Brott... his father played basketball at MSU Billings, and his grandfather Richard Brott played hoops at Denver... his brother Wilson is a Bobcat tight end.

Tight End
Wilson Brott
6-6, 265, Jr, 2V, Billings, MT (West)


High School Threw for 738 yards and rushed for 55 more as a senior quarterback for Billings West in 2013.

Academics A health and human performance major.

Personal Born Wilson Curtis Brott in Billings... one of three children of Curt and Gina Brott... his father played basketball at MSU Billings, and his grandfather Richard Brott played hoops at Denver... worked for Martel Construction in the off-season... his brother Mitch is a Bobcat offensive lineman.

Quarterback
Kamden Brown
6-1, 190, Fr, RS, Covina, CA (Charter Oak)


High School Threw for 2,749 yards and 31 touchdowns to lead Charter Oak to a 12-2 record as a senior.

Academics A business major.

Running Back
Tyrel Burgess
5-8, 160, Fr, HS, Haines City, FL (Ridge Comm.)

Montana State (2017) Competing for playing time at running back as fall camp begins.

High School Second Team All-County selection after rushing for 1,168 yards with 18 touchdowns as a senior... also competed in basketball and track and field.

Academics A sociology major with plans to specialize in criminology.
4 Wide Receiver
James Campbell
6-1, 165, Fr, HS, Palatka, FL (Palatka)

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall as a possibility for playing time at receiver this season.

High School First team all-state and two-time all-county selection... Putnam County Offensive Player of the Year as a senior, when he threw for 1,275 yards and ran for 620 more... 25 total touchdowns... three-year honor student who was also a two-time team captain.

Academics An engineering major.

Personal Born James Campbell in Palatka, FL... one of six children of James and Lisa Campbell, and LeNora Campbell.

35 Linebacker
Balue Chapman
6-1, 200, Fr, RS, Bozeman, MT (Bozeman)

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall in competition for starting honors at linebacker. (2016) Redshirted... was named the team’s top defensive scout following the season.

High School Named Montana Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior in 2015 after helping lead the Bozeman Hawks to a state championship... registered 5.5 sacks and 27 quarterback hurries, earning all-state honors.

Academics A civil engineering major.

Personal One of two children of Bret and Kari Chapman... born Balue Wryder Chapman in Bozeman... his father played football for the Bobcats... former prep teammates include Miami (Ohio) football player Payton O’Reilly, UM Western’s Brady Schulz, and North Dakota State baseball star Bennett Hostetler.

38 Safety
Brian Campbell
6-2, 195, Fr, RS, Covington, WA (Kentwood)


High School Threw for 956 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior at Kentwood.

Academics Enrolled in mechanical engineering.

8 Cornerback
Jalen Cole
5-8, 150, Fr, HS, Carson, CA (Mater Dei)

Montana State (2017) Begins his Bobcat career in competition for playing time at cornerback.

High School Three-year starter at one of the nation’s top prep programs, where he helped lead Mater Dei to a 13-1 mark last fall and a top three national ranking... rated a three-star recruit... two-time All-Trinity, two-time all-state, two-time All-CIF and two-time All-County... recorded 39 tackles, including 3.5 for a loss, with two picks and two pass breakups as a senior... three-time honor roll student.

Academics Enrolled in University Studies.

Personal The son of Jason Cole and Ebony Charles-Cole, and Aisha Scott... played for Bruce Rollinson at Mater Dei.
Grant Collins

6-4, 240, Jr, 2V, Bozeman, MT (Bozeman)

Montana State (2017) MSU’s starting Buck, has started his first 22 games in the Blue and Gold. (2016) Started all 11 games at the Buck position... his 5.5 tackles-for-loss were third on the team and 2.0 sacks tied for second... season-high eight tackles at Montana, with a half-tackle-for-loss and one hurry... had sacks against Bryant and North Dakota. (2015) Started all 11 games at middle linebacker... season-high 15 tackles vs. Montana... two sacks against NAU... forced a Sac State fumble... 1.5 tackles-for-loss vs. SUU. (2014) Redshirted... MSU’s Top Defensive Scout.

High School Helped lead Bozeman High to an undefeated state championship in 2013, earning USA Today Montana Defensive Player of the Year honors... Class AA Co-Defensive MVP, First Team All-State and Great Falls Tribune Superstate choice... chosen for the Montana Shrine and the Mon-Dak All-Star games.

Academics A mechanical engineering major.

Personal Born Grant William Collins in Fairfax, Va... one of two children of Shane and Lisa Collins... his sister Averie stars for the Stanford soccer team... former prep teammates include current Bobcat Callahan O’Reilly and his brother Payton, who plays football at Miami (Ohio)... his father played football and was a standout in the shot put at Arizona State, and also played in the NFL... his grandfather, Don Collins, was a long-time MSU professor.

Walker Cozzie

6-0, 215, So, 1V, Helena, MT (Capital)


High School First team all-conference and all-state special teams player... first team all-conference and second team all-state linebacker... four-time academic all-state.

Academics Majors in exercise science.

Personal Born Walker Jaysen Cozzie in Helena... one of two children of Brad and Kristen Cozzie... his father played football at Carroll... worked for Dick Anderson Construction in the summer months.
**88 Wide Receiver John D’Agostino**

**6-1, 195, Jr, 2V, Bozeman, MT (Bozeman)**

**Montana State (2017)** Injured during the spring. **(2016)** Started the season’s first six games before an injury interrupted his campaign... caught 19 passes, second-best on the team even while missing five games, for 176 yards... his two touchdown catches stand as second on the team, as well... six catches for 47 yards against Idaho... touchdown catches against Bryant and Western Oregon. **(2015)** First career catch in opener against Fort Lewis... played in three games with two catches. **(2014)** Redshirted... MSU’s Top Offensive Scout, landing weekly honors three times.

**High School** Finished fourth in Class AA in receiving yards as a senior with 90.0 (nine games)... 11 touchdown catches, second-most in Class AA... 3.3 catches a game, ninth in the state... selected as an alternate for Montana Shrine Game

**Academics** A business major.

**Personal** Born in Bozeman... his father Mark was a defensive standout for the Bobcats, and his uncle Scott played football at Rocky Mountain.

**6-1 195** **Jr 2V** **Bozeman, MT (Bozeman)**

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2016 Season Stats

| UI | * | 6 | 47 | 0 |
| BU | * | 4 | 28 | 1 |
| WOU | * | 3 | 45 | 1 |
| UND | * | 3 | 32 | 0 |
| SAC | * | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| NAU | * | 1 | 9 | 0 |
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| EWU | Did not play |
| SUU | Did not play |
| UCD | Did not play |
| UM | Did not play |

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**45 Kicker Luke Daly**

**6-2, 180, Sr, 2V, Billings, MT (Central)**

**Montana State (Career)** His 167 career points is one from joining MSU’s career top 10 list. **(2017)** Begins his senior season as MSU’s starting place kicker. **(2016)** Missed the season. **(2015)** Earned Honorable Mention All-Big Sky honors... earned STATS FCS and Big Sky Player of the Week honors for kicking a pair of 50-yard field goals, including a 57-yarder at ISU that was the second-longest in MSU history... 35 of his 75 kickoffs resulted in touchbacks. **(2014)** Won the starting kickoff and placements jobs in fall camp and posted a solid redshirt freshman season... nailed 13 of his 19 field goals, the most field goals made in school history by a freshman... Big Sky Special Teams Player of the Week after North Dakota game... 38 touchbacks on 91 kickoffs. **(2013)** Redshirted.

**High School** Two-time all-state punter who earned 2012 All-Tier All-American honors... finished his senior season 9-for-13 on field goals with a long of 47 yards and 66-for-72 on PATs... produced 50 touchbacks on his 94 career kickoffs.

**Academics** A biological sciences major.

**Personal** Born Luke Taylor Daly in Billings... one of four children of Randall and Katherine Daly.

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## 44 Linebacker

### Koni Dole

6-0, 200, Jr, 1V, Huntley Project, MT (Huntley)

Montana State (2017) Enters the season competing for playing time at linebacker and on special teams. (2016) Played in one game as a reserve linebacker without stats. (2015) Saw limited action... played in three games without statistics. (2014) Redshirted... named Defensive Scout of the Week and Special Teams Scout of the Week once each... also won the team’s Don Hass Most Inspirational Award.

**High School** Played his senior season with a prosthetic leg after a devastating injury cost him his right leg below the knee as a junior... earned Huntley’s Red Devil Award... chosen as the Most Inspirational Player in the 2014 Montana East-West Shrine Game... all-conference his last three football seasons and his sophomore season in track... all-state as a senior wrestler... attended Shepherd High School as a freshman.

**Academics** Majors in business.

**Personal** Born Koni Seumaala Dole on June 24, 1996 in Billings... one of three children of Fenlelei and Nancy Dole... has spent summers working in landscaping and as a rodeo hand.

<table>
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<th>2016 Season Stats</th>
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<td>NAU</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>EWU</td>
<td>Did not play</td>
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<td>SUU</td>
<td>Did not play</td>
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<td>UCD</td>
<td>Did not play</td>
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<tr>
<td>UM</td>
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## 48 Tight End

### Ryan Davis

6-2, 230, Fr, HS, Billings, MT (Skyview)

Montana State (2017) Starts his career as a tight end from a legendary Bobcat family... likely ticketed for a redshirt season, but has impressed in fall camp.

**High School** Class AA First Team All-State linebacker and Second Team tight end at Skyview as a senior... chosen the Falcons’ Most Inspirational as a junior and senior... helped lead the Skyview basketball team to a state title in 2016... two-time Honor Roll selection... a Blackfeet Nation Descendent and Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Member, and also belongs to the Crazy Dog Warrior Society.

**Academics** Majors in mechanical engineering.

**Personal** The son of Doug and Debbie Davis... both parents and three brothers are MSU graduates, and his brother Leo was a three-year starting offensive lineman for the Bobcats (2008-11)... brother Matt also played football for the Cats, and Steven played hoops at MSU.

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5 Cornerback
Braelen Evans

6-0, 185, Jr, 1V, Frisco, TX (Hebron)

Montana State (2017) Begins fall camp as a starting cor-
Missed the season with injury. (2014) Redshirted.

High School An all-conference cornerback at Hebron High
School in Carrollton, Tex., where he also earned all-district
honors at corner (1st team) and running back (2nd team)...
39 tackles, four for a loss, with five pass breakups and two
picks as a senior... also broke off a 90-yard TD run as a run-
ning back.

Academics A health and human performance major.

Personal Born Braelen Rashad Evans on January 26, 1996
in Baton Rouge, La... one of Jerry and Kima Evans’ three
children... his father played football at Southern, while
cousins Corey Webster (LSU, New York Giants) and Tyson
Jackson (LSU, Kansas City Chiefs/Atlanta Falcons) starred
in college football before playing in the NFL.

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2016 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
2015 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

2016 Season Stats
UI 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
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WOU Did not play
SAC Did not play
NAU 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
WGU Did not play
EWWU Did not play
SUU Did not play
UCD Did not play
UM Did not play

2015 Season Stats
FLC 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
EWU Did not play
CP Did not play
NAU Did not play
SAC Did not play
PSU Did not play
ETSU Did not play
UND Did not play
SUU Did not play
ISU 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UM Did not play

57 Defensive Tackle
Tyrone Fa’anono

6-2, 270, Jr, 2V, Oxnard, CA (Oaks Christian)

Montana State (2017) Missed the spring with an injury...
slotted as the starting end entering the fall. (2016) MSU’s
returning starter at defensive end. (2015) Started eight
games, playing in all 11... three of his 24 tackles were sacks,
and one other came behind the line of scrimmage... career-
high six tackles against Sacramento State. (2014) Played in
12 games as a true freshman, logging a dozen tackles, 2.5
for a loss, with one sack... that came against Weber State...
three quarterback hurries, and forced a Weber State fumble.

High School A two-time All-Maramonte League selection,
earning conference defensive lineman of the year honors...
Ventura Star First Team All-County and All-CIF selection...
played in AIGA Foundation All-Poly All-Star Game... 45
tackles and seven sacks on the season.

Academics A psychology major.

Personal Born Tyrone Samuelu Fa’anono in California...
one of five children of Sam and Joyce Fa’anono... has
worked for the Bozeman Boys & Girls Club, and as security
for events in the Fieldhouse.

G UT AT TL S Int PB H FR FF BK S
2016 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
2015 11 15 9 4 3 0 0 1 1 0 0 0
2014 12 7 6 2.5 1 0 0 3 0 1 0 0

2016 Season Stats
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BU 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
WOU Did not play
SAC Did not play
NAU Did not play
WGU Did not play
SUU Did not play
UM Did not play

2015 Season Stats
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EWU * 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
CP 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
NAU * 1 2 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
SAC * 4 2 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
PSU 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0
ETSU * 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UND * 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0
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Marcus Ferriter

6-3, 245, So, 1V, Butte, MT (Central)

Montana State (2017) Enters the season in competition for time at defensive end. (2016) Played in all 11 games, starting the first seven... logged 19 tackles, including four for a loss and one sack... his sack came against Sacramento State... recovered a Western Oregon fumble... season-high six tackles at Sac State.. (2015) Redshirted at MSU.

High School Earned First Team all-Class A honors for Butte Central as a senior in 2014... started 40 straight games in high school... older brother Marcus was a thrower for the MSU track and field squad.

Academics An electrical engineering major.

Personal Born Marcus Patrick Ferriter in Gillette, Wyoming... one of three children of Dan and Leann Ferriter... his brother Sean starred for MSU track and field as a thrower.

Kyle Finch

6-4, 225, Fr, RS, Dillon, MT (Beaverhead)


High School Chosen for 2015 Shrine Game... helped Dillon to state Class A titles in 2013 and ‘14, and runner-up finish in ‘15... logged 99 tackles... team captain and conference defensive MVP.

Academics A mechanical engineering major.

Personal Born Kyle James Finch in Dillon... one of two children of Nate and Kim Finch, Dillon-area ranchers... his father played football at Montana, an uncle Aaron played at CSU, and a cousin, Christopher Finch, played hockey at Amherst.

R.J. Fitzgerald

5-10, 215, Fr, HS, Dillon, MT (Beaverhead)

Montana State (2017) Begins the season as a reserve fullback.

High School Helped lead Beaverhead County to Class A State Championships in 2014 and 2016... two-time First Team Class A All-State linebacker, first team all-conference at fullback... Southern A Defensive MVP as a senior, when he registered 106 tackles to go along with 700 rushing yards... 2015 all-state catcher for the Dillon Cubs American Legion baseball team... helped the Beaverhead basketball team to 2016 state title... Academic All-State four times.

Academics Enrolled in University Studies.

Personal Born Robert Jon Fitzgerald in Dillon... one of four children of Greg and Keeley Fitzgerald... his father and uncle (John) played football at Montana... his grandfather Jon Konen played football at Western Montana.
71 Offensive Lineman
Connor Floden
6-0, 270, Fr, RS, El Dorado, CA (Oak Ridge)


High School Earned First Team All-League honors as a senior... was named his team’s Offensive MVP, and was a National Scholar-Athlete of the Year nominee.

Academics A kinesiology major.

Personal Born Connor Johnathan Floden in Minnesota... one of two children of Matt and Tami Floden... played prep football with Bobcat teammate Kevin Kssis and Notre Dame’s Ian Book... has coached 8th grade football.

6 Safety
Ben Folsom
6-2, 210, So, 1V, Dillon, MT (Beaverhead)


High School First Team All-State and All-Conference quarterback at Beaverhead County HS, completing 64% of his passes for 2,273 yards and 23 touchdowns... also logged 194 tackles and seven interceptions in his career... a Great Falls Tribune Superstate choice, earning invitations to the Mon-Dak and Montana Shrine all-star games... played on Beaverhead’s 2011 football and 2012 basketball state championship teams.

Academics An ag business major.

Personal Born Benjamin Oswald Folsom in Worland, Wyoming... one of five children of John and Tracy Folsom, Dillon-area ranchers... his brother JD played at Snow College and Weber State, and in the NFL, and brother Monte played for MSU... builds saddles in the summer.

12 Safety
Khari Garcia
5-10, 195, Sr, 3V, Pomona, CA (Charter Oak)

Montana State (2017) Begins his senior season as MSU’s nickel back while competing (2016) Returned as a third-year starter at free safety... Played in all 11 games, starting the first eight... logged 48 tackles, fifth on the team... intercepted a Sacramento State pass... broke up a pass against Idaho. (2015) Played in the season’s last 10 games, starting eight... missed opener vs. FLC for an off-season violation of team rules... logged 36 tackles with four pass breakups... season-high 12 tackles against Cal Poly. (2014) Played in all 13 games, starting three at safety... registered 51 tackles, one for a loss... intercepted one pass each against EWU and UND, returning the latter for a touchdown... nine tackles and two pass breakups against Montana... Special Teams Core selection four times. (2013) Redshirted… named MSU’s Defensive Scout of the Week following the Colorado Mesa game.

High School Three-year starter and team captain as a senior at Charter Oak High… First Team All-Sierra League honors twice and Second Team All-Valley honors twice as a safety.

Academics Enrolled in University Studies.

Personal Born May 28, 1995… son of Isidro and Sharon Garcia.
## 2014 Season Stats

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### Caleb Gillis

#### 73 Guard

**6-6, 285, Sr, 3V, Glenn, MT (Beaverhead)**

**Montana State (2017)** Veteran lineman enters the fall in competition for a starting guard spot. **(2016)** Played in all 11 games last season as a reserve offensive lineman and special teams contributor. **(2015)** Played extensively in 10 of the team’s 11 games... missed the Portland State game, started and impressed vs. Idaho State. **(2014)** A reserve offensive lineman... saw action in four games. **(2013)** Redshirted.

**High School** Logged 20 tackles with one sack as a senior at Beaverhead County in 2012... recovered one fumble that year... also played hoops.

**Academics** A civil engineering major.

**Personal** Born February 21, 1995 in Petosky, Mich... one of four children of John and Patti Gillis.

### Tadan Gilman

#### 17 Linebacker

**6-0, 215, Fr, HS, Kalispell, MT (Glacier)**

**Montana State (2017)** Enters his first season in the program competing for playing time at linebacker.

**High School** Selected for the 2017 Mon-Dak and Montana Shrine games... USA Today All-Montana 2nd Team in 2015 and 1st Team in 2016... Great Falls Tribune SuperState selection as a senior... Academic All-State in 2014, ’15, ’16... team captain as a senior... his team finished second in the state in 2016 and won the 2014 state title... earned all-state honors at quarterback (1st team) and punter (2nd team) in 2016... named his team’s Alpha Male Award... also all-state in basketball.

**Academics** Majors in exercise science.

**Personal** The son of Mark and Tiffany Gilman... his father played football at Nebraska, grandfather Thomas Gilman played at North Dakota, and uncle Wade Rademach starred for the Bobcats in the ’90s... former prep teammates include MSU’s Josh Hill and Patrick O’Connell of Mary.

### Jacob Hadley

#### 9 Linebacker

**6-5, 220, Fr, RS, Billings, MT (Central)**

**Montana State (2017)** Injured during the Sonny Holland Spring Scrimmage... transitioned to linebacker in the off-season. **(2016)** Redshirted at MSU.

**High School** 2015 Montana Shrine Game selection... chosen for the 2015 First Team All-USA Montana... four interceptions as a corner... also played receiver.

**Academics** Enrolled in University Studies.

**Personal** Born Jacob Leary Hadley in Billings... one of four children of Justin and Brook Hadley... uncles John Hadley (Dickinson State) and Joe Hadley (Carroll) played college football... has worked as an electrician’s aid in the summer.
Offensive Line

Colin Hammock

6-3, 275, So, Sq, Missoula, MT (Sentinel)


High School  Earned all-state honors as a tackle at Missoula Sentinel... also wrestled and was all-state in the shot put.

Academics  A cell biology and neuroscience major... was Valedictorian of his class, a National Merit Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, and Eagle Scout.

Personal  Born Colin Jeffrey Hammock in Kansas City, Kansas... one of five children of Ben and Beth Hammock... an uncle, Tim Kearney, played football at Missouri... former prep teammates include MSU football players Byron Rollins, Gabe Peppenger and Matt Brownlow, and Bobcat track star Kyle Douglass... a cell biology and neuroscience major who has worked as a resident associate in an assisted living facility and as a dietary aide at a psychiatric inpatient unit.

Defensive Line

Jaxen Hashley

6-6, 260, Fr, HS, Kalispell, MT (Glacier)

Montana State  (2017) Slated to redshirt this season.

High School  Helped lead Glacier to 2014 Class AA State Championship and 2016 runner-up seasons... three-year letterman, team captain in 2016... First Team All-State on both the offensive and defensive lines... three-year National Honor Society member... captain of the basketball team, as well.

Academics  A health enhancement major.

Personal  Born Jaxen John Robert Hashley in Great Falls... one of four children of Doug and Bekki Hashley... his father is a Bobcat Hall of Fame basketball player and an assistant AD at Providence University in Great Falls... played for Grady Bennett at Glacier.

Wide Receiver

Peyton Hanser

6-4, 205, Fr, HS, Billings, MT (Central)

Montana State  (2017) Enters his first season in competition for time at receiver.

High School  Team captain as a senior at Billings Central, where he was a First Team Class A All-State and two-time First Team All-Conference choice... four-year starter on the basketball team, helping lead his team to the state title game as a junior... four-time Academic All-State.

Academics  An exercise science major... three-time academic all-state selection.

Personal  Born Peyton Matthew Hanser in Billings... one of three children of Scott and Janelle Hanser... brother Dylan plays football at Washington State, and father Scott was a standout on back-to-back WAC Championship teams at Wyoming... sister Austin played hoops at MSU Billings... mother was a Wyoming cheerleader... prep teammates include MSU’s Jacob Hadley and Jet Campbell of Montana Tech and Josh Kraft of Carroll.

Offensive Line

Sean Hatten

6-4, 290, Fr, HS, Bakersfield, CA (Garces)

Montana State  (2017) Begins his freshman season as a Bobcat offensive lineman.

High School  Earned First Team All-League and All-Area honors as a senior, when he was named his team’s Most Improved Player... 2016 Jockey Club Award winner... chosen for the US Army Bowl... a Principal’s Honor Roll choice.

Academics  Majors in ag business.

Personal  The son of John and Theresa Hatten... played for AJ Gass at Garces High.
Defensive Line
Brandon Hayashi
6-0, 310, Sr, 1V, Hacienda Heights, CA (Citrus/Los Altos)

Montana State (2017) Enters his senior season in competition for starting honors on the interior of the Bobcats defensive line. (2016) Battled injuries but played in six games... logged six total tackles, three against NAU.

Citrus Registered 63 tackles, including five for a loss, in 10 games... three sacks... 26 tackles, including five for a loss with one sack, as a freshman in 2014... also forced one fumble and recovered another that season.

High School Earned All-CIF and First Team All-League honors as a senior... named his team’s utility player of the year... a standout defensive back, picking off nine passes... also caught 200 yards worth of passes.

Academics Enrolled in University Studies.

Personal Born Brandon Tsayoshi Hayashi in Hacienda Heights, California... one of three children of Gary and Vivian Hayashi... former teammates include Indiana State’s Justin Hornsby and Ben Kane of UTSA.

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BRY Did not play
WOU Did not play
UND Did not play
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NAU 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
WEB 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
EWU 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
SUU 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UCD 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UM 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Cornerback/Safety
JoJo Henderson
6-2, 195, So, JC, Salt Lake City, UT (Snow/Lamar/Olympus)

Montana State (2017) Enters his first season with the Cats as a possible starting corner who can also play safety.

Snow Recorded 54 tackles (34 solo) in eight games as a freshman at Snow College in 2016... broke up 10 passes.

Lamar Redshirted in 2015.

High School Played for the North squad in the Blue-Grey All-America Bowl in Tampa in 2015... two-time all-region choice who was team MVP as a junior and senior... helped lead Olympus to 10-2 record and regional co-championship as a junior in 2013, when the team advanced to the state semi-finals... rushed for 965 yards as a running back at Olympus High as a senior in 2015... scored 11 touchdowns, seven on the ground... logged 116 tackles, three for a loss, that season after getting 58 the year before... intercepted one pass as a senior, four as a junior... also lettered in basketball and track and field.

Academics A business major.

Personal Born Joseph Michael Henderson in Detroit... one of six children of Joe Henderson and Carol Cannon-Henderson... his father was a star running back at Iowa State and enjoyed a seven-year NFL career... his step-mother Carol was a nationally-recognized gymnast... played at Lamar with Brendan Longley and at Snow with Garret Boles, both now with the Denver Broncos... has worked as a personal trainer, the occupation of his father and step-mother.
Wide Receiver
Mitchell Herbert
6-4, 210, Sr, 3V, Eugene, OR (Sheldon)

Montana State (2017) A starting receiver entering his season season... team captain. (2016) Led the Bobcats with 26 catches, 476 receiving yard, and three touchdown catches... caught four passes against Idaho and North Dakota, and 100-yard receiving games against Western Oregon and Southern Utah. (2015) Established himself as one of the Big Sky’s top receivers, starting all 11 games and earning Third Team All-Big Sky honors... caught 42 passes for 562 yards... caught four passes for career-best 115 yards against Sacramento State. (2014) Logged a terrific rookie season, catching 28 passes for 339 yards and a team-high four TDs... third on the team in catches, fourth in yards... caught five passes for 61 yards at Sacramento State, including the game-winning touchdown in the game’s final seconds... also caught a key TD in the win over Idaho State.

High School All-state choice on offense, and all-league selection on offense and defense as a senior... earned team MVP and Scholar-Athlete honors at Sheldon High... caught 84 passes for 1,142 yards and five touchdowns... rushed 34 times for 200 yards and six scores... 44 tackles on the season... three-sport all-state choice as a senior (basketball, baseball).compiled a 4.0 grade point average, National Honor Society member.

Academics A pre-medicine major... National Honor Society member at Sheldon, where he compiled a 3.98 GPA (out of 4.0).

Personal Born Mark Mitchell Herbert on April 21, 1996 in Eugene, Ore... one of three children of Mark and Holly Herbert... father Mark played football and ran track at Montana... one grandfather, Rich Schwab, played football at Oregon, while his other, Roger Herbert, ran track at Oregon State... former teammates include Montana’s Connor Strahm and Mike Ralston... a younger brother plays quarterback at Oregon.

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Linebacker
Josh Hill
5-11, 215, So, 1V, Kalispell, MT (Glacier)

Montana State (2017) Enters his sophomore season with a starting linebacker slot locked down, likely at the Will position. (2016) Started all 11 games for the Cats, capping a sensational freshman campaign with Big Sky Defensive Player of the Week honors in the season finale against Montana... logged eight tackles against UM, one for a loss, with a forced fumble and an interception... finished the season with 54 tackles, fourth on the team... also picked off a Western Oregon pass. (2015) Redshirted at MSU... voted the team’s top defensive scout as a redshirt freshman in 2015.

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<td>SDSU</td>
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</table>
High School  Helped lead Glacier’s 13-0 state championship team, earning Class AA Defensive MVP honors... first team all-state as a junior and senior, earning Great Falls Tribune Super State honors as a senior... Mon-Dak All-Star and Montana Shrine Game choice.

Academics  An earth sciences major.

Personal  Born Josh Hill in Tucson, Arizona... one of three children of Carey Lyn and the late John Hill.

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2016 Season Stats

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall as MSU’s long snapper.

(2016) Started throughout the season as the team’s long snapper.

(2015) MSU’s starting long snapper and was perfect throughout the campaign. (2014) MSU’s long snapper throughout the season... recorded a near-perfect record.

High School  Competed in football, basketball and track at Merced High.

Academics  A psychology major... plans a career in behavior analysis.

Personal  Born Rocky Steven Hogue in Merced, California... one of three children of Paul and Andrea Hogue... his father played football at Merced College and the University of the Pacific... brother Taj Brown played football at Mary... a cousin Matt Winton played baseball at San Jose State and in the Seattle Mariners system... has worked as a summer sports camp counselor for the YMCA.

56 Long Snapper

Rocky Hogue

6-3, 225, Sr, 3V, Merced, CA (Merced)

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall as MSU’s long snapper.  (2016) Started throughout the season as the team’s long snapper.  (2015) MSU’s starting long snapper and was perfect throughout the campaign.  (2014) MSU’s long snapper throughout the season... recorded a near-perfect record.

High School  Competed in football, basketball and track at Merced High.

Academics  A psychology major... plans a career in behavior analysis.

Personal  Born Rocky Steven Hogue in Merced, California... one of three children of Paul and Andrea Hogue... his father played football at Merced College and the University of the Pacific... brother Taj Brown played football at Mary... a cousin Matt Winton played baseball at San Jose State and in the Seattle Mariners system... has worked as a summer sports camp counselor for the YMCA.

20 Defensive Back

Dre Jackson

5-10, 200, Jr, JC, Atlanta, GA (Ventura/Lakeside)

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall as MSU’s long snapper.

(2016) Started throughout the season as the team’s long snapper.

(2015) MSU’s starting long snapper and was perfect throughout the campaign. (2014) MSU’s long snapper throughout the season... recorded a near-perfect record.

High School  Competed in football, basketball and track at Merced High.

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22 Running Back

Noah James

6-1, 215, Jr, 2V, Kalispell, MT (Glacier)

Montana State (2017) Begins the fall in competition for time at running back.  (2016) Played in seven games, carrying twice... also saw action on special teams.  (2015) Played in seven games as a special teams contributor and reserve running back... rushed for 37 yards and a touchdown against East Tennessee State... also rushed for -1 yards on a carry against Idaho State... logged a special teams tackle in six different games.  (2014) Redshirted... Offensive Scout of the Week once.

High School  Earned All-State Class AA honors while leading Kalispell Glacier to the 2013 state championship game... rushed for 1,062 yards on 168 carries (6.3 ypc, 118.0 ypg) for Glacier... also caught 15 passes for 161 yards... chosen for 2014 Montana East-West Shrine Game.
Academics  A math major.

Personal  Born Noah Indigo James on October 15, 1995 in Whitefish... one of two sons of Morgan and Nicole James... played prep football with UM’s Evan Epperly and a host of Bobcat teammates including Logan Jones, Josh Hill, Joel Horn and Devin Jeffries... a cousin of Minnesota Twins star Joe Mauer.

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2016 Season Stats

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NAU | Did not play |
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2015 Stats

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Montana State (2017) Transferred to MSU after spring drills... enters the fall expected to contribute at an outside receiver spot.

American River  Caught 19 passes in nine games as a sophomore at American River in 2016... 298 receiving yards with a pair of touchdowns... returned two of kicks for 21 yards.

Sacramento State  Redshirted during his first season in 2014 after playing in two early-season games (no statistics)... the only catch of his Hornets career was a four-yard touchdown catch against NAU.

High School  First Team All-Delta Valley as a senior in 2013, catching 38 passes for 6923 yards and 10 touchdowns... caught at least one touchdown pass in the season’s first seven games with three 100-yard receiving games that fall.

Academics  A sociology major.

Personal  The son of Mishun Abrams.

---

91 Defensive End

Michael Jobman

6-4, 225, Fr, RS, Huntley Project, MT (Huntley Project)


High School  A 2015 Great Falls Tribune Superstate Team choice... selected for 2016 Montana Shrine Game... rushed for over 1,000 yards as a running back... logged 51 solo tackles, seven for a loss, as a linebacker.

Academics  An ag business major.

Personal  Born Michael Scott Jobman in Scottsbluff, Nebraska... one of two children of Randall and Christy Jobman... his father played football at Nebraska, his mother basketball at Nebraska Wesleyan.

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81 Wide Receiver

Jabarri Johnson

6-4, 210, Jr, JC, Elk Grove, CA (American River/Franklin/Sacramento State)

Montana State (2017) Transferred to MSU after spring drills... enters the fall expected to contribute at an outside receiver spot.

American River  Caught 19 passes in nine games as a sophomore at American River in 2016... 298 receiving yards with a pair of touchdowns... returned two of kicks for 21 yards.

Sacramento State  Redshirted during his first season in 2014 after playing in two early-season games (no statistics)... the only catch of his Hornets career was a four-yard touchdown catch against NAU.

High School  First Team All-Delta Valley as a senior in 2013, catching 38 passes for 6923 yards and 10 touchdowns... caught at least one touchdown pass in the season’s first seven games with three 100-yard receiving games that fall.

Academics  A sociology major.

Personal  The son of Mishun Abrams.

---

28 Running Back

Logan Jones

5-7, 170, Jr, 2V, Kalispell, MT (Glacier)

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall in competition for time at running back and as a returner. (2016) Played in seven games, rushing six times for 39 yards and catching one pass against Sacramento State for 65 yards... his 10 kickoff returns and 251 return yards were each team highs. (2015) Played in all 11 games

High School  A Great Falls Tribune Superstate selection in both 2013 and 2014... chosen for the Badlands Bowl and the Montana Shrine Game... first team all-state selection.

Academics  A construction engineering technology major.
### 2016 Season Stats

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### Cornerback

#### Adam Jordt

**5-10, 175, Fr, RS, Bigfork, MT (Bigfork)**

- **Montana State (2017)** Joined the Bobcats during spring ball... enters the fall as a reserve defensive back.
- **High School** A two-time all-state and three-time all-conference selection at Bigfork... logged three interceptions in one game, two for touchdowns, as a senior... chosen for the Montana Shrine Bowl all-star game.
- **Academics** A film major... National Honor Society member at Bigfork High.
- **Personal** Born Adam Wayne Jordt in Kalispell... one of four children of Thaddeus and Brenda Jordt... an uncle, Aaron Jordt, played football at South Dakota State, and his brother Austin played basketball at Shoreline CC... former teammates include Montana’s Josh Sandry, MSU Billings basketball player Christian Evans, Rocky Mountain’s Isaac Mertel, and Vinny Quirk of McNeese State.

### Tight End

#### Clark Judisch

**6-4, 220, Fr, RS, Conrad, MT (Conrad)**

- **Montana State (2017)** Enters his first varsity season as a reserve tight end. *(2016)* Redshirted at MSU.
- **High School** Threw for 1,460 yards and rushed for 856 as a senior at Conrad.
- **Academics** A construction engineering major.
- **Personal** Born Clark Raymond Judisch in Shelby, Montana... one of two children of Kip and Wendy Judisch... cousins Clete Linebarger and Ross Judisch played football for the Cats... one uncle, Jeremy Curry, played at MSU, while another, Scott Curry, played at UM and for the Green Bay Packers.

### Defensive End

#### Chad Kanow

**6-3, 205, Fr, HS, Temecula, CA (Great Oak)**

- **Montana State (2017)** Enters his first season with the Cats seeking a spot at linebacker or defensive end.
- **High School** First team all-league selection and defensive player of the year as a senior, who served as a team captain in 2016... logged 113 tackles, five sacks and three forced fumbles for Great Oak.
- **Academics** Enrolled in University Studies.
- **Personal** The son of Steve and Carynn Kanow... played for Robbie Robinson at Great Oak.
Kevin Kassis

Wide Receiver

6-0, 190, So, 1V, El Dorado, CA (Oak Ridge)

Montana State (2017) A dynamic member of MSU’s receiving corps who is expected to challenge for starting roles as a receiver and primary return specialist. (2016) His 514 all-purpose yards was 10th-most in history by a Bobcat freshman... caught nine passes for 152 yards, including 103 yards against North Dakota... his 100-yard receiving game was the first by a Bobcat freshman since Tanner Bleskin in 2010... returned a punt 47 yards against Weber State, and a kickoff 41 yards against Sacramento State.

High SchoolEnjoyed a 1,000-yard receiving season with 10 touchdowns as a senior... first team all-league and all-metro.

AcademicsA business major.

PersonalBorn Kevin Jacob Kassis in El Dorado Hills, California... one of three children of Steve and Gina Kassis... former prep teammate Ian Book plays football at Notre Dame.

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Braydon Konkol

Safety

6-2, 200, So, 1V, Belgrade, MT (Belgrade)

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall as a starting safety. (2016) Played in 10 games, starting the final two games against UC Davis and Montana... logged six tackles, including one for a loss, in the season finale against the Grizzlies... seven tackles, one for a loss, at Southern Utah. (2015) Redshirted at MSU.

High SchoolA versatile athlete who starred at defensive back and as a dual-threat quarterback... 2014 Great Falls Tribune Super State safety, registering 135 tackles, including 20 for loss, with four sacks, five interceptions, and two fumble recoveries... Central A Offensive MVP with 2,361 rushing yards and 31 touchdowns while throwing for 2,184 yards and 22 touchdowns.

AcademicsA construction engineering technology major.

PersonalBorn Brayden Lambeau Konkol in Bozeman... one of four children of Josh and Stacy Konkol... former prep teammates include current Bobcat teammate Derek Marks and Virginia Tech wrestler Jarret Degan.

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Lewis Kidd

Offensive Line

6-6, 290, Fr, RS, Fridley, MN (Totino-Grace)

69  
**Offensive Line**

**Denver Krone**

6-1, 265, Fr, RS, Augusta, MT (Choteau)


**High School**  Earned all-state honors on offense and defense as a senior at Choteau High.

**Academics**  An animal science major... an academic all-state choice in high school

**Personal**  Born Denver James Krone in Great Falls... one of three children of Lorne and Tami Krone... his grandfather Ray Krone played basketball at Montana, his father played football at Carroll, and an uncle, Lucas Granderson, played football at Northern Montana.

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23  
**Running Back**

**Nick LaSane**

6-0, 215, Sr, 3V, Dallas, TX (Lovejoy)

Montana State  (2017) Enters the fall serving a four-game suspension... expected to play a key role in MSU’s ground game upon his return. (2016) Played in nine games... registered a career long 61-yard run against Montana... carried five times for 85 yards against Eastern Washington... carried 18 times for 200 yards in the season’s final four games. (2015) Played in all 11 games as a reserve running back and kick teams regular... carried 27 times for 97 yards, scoring touchdowns against Portland State and East Tennessee State... gained career-high 56 yards against ETSU. (2014) Played in seven games... carried 18 times for 92 yards with a touchdown... six carries for 38 yards and the score against UC Davis... Offensive Scout of the Week once. (2013) Redshirted at MSU, and was injured throughout the fall.

**High School**  Rushed for 2,349 yards on 264 carries in a prep career cut short by injury... averaged 8.9 yards a carry, scoring 27 career touchdowns... first team all-district choice as a junior.

**Academics**  Majors in sociology.

**Personal**  The son of Michael and Elisabeth LaSane.
Dylan Mahoney

6-6, 285, Sr, 3V, Great Falls, MT (CM Russell)

Montana State  (2017) Enters 2017 as a team captain and third-year starter. (2016) Played in seven games, starting six... the four games missed were because of injury... MSU was 4-2 in games Mahoney started. (2015) Started four games, playing in all 11... started two games each at tackle and guard. (2014) Played in two games, against UC Davis and Cal Poly... hindered early in the season by injury. (2013) Redshirted.

High School  Team captain at CMR as a senior, when he earned First Team All-State and All-Conference honors as both an offensive and defensive lineman... Grat Falls Tribune Superstate choice chosen for the Mon-Dak and Montana Shrine games.

Academics  An earth science major.

Personal  Born Dylan Carson Mahoney on January 7, 1995 in Great Falls... the son of Duff and Schlene Mahoney... an uncle, Don Mahoney, played football at Carroll.

Derek Marks

6-1, 245, So, 1V, Belgrade, MT (Belgrade)

Montana State  (2017) MSU’s returning starter at defensive end. (2016) After missing the opener as a possible redshirt he played in the season’s final 10... started the final two games (vs. UC Davis and Montana), each Bobcat wins... recorded at least one tackle in eight of his 10 games... logged 1.5 tackles for loss, including a sack, at Montana... hurried the quarterback twice against UC Davis.

High School  Named 2015 Central A Defensive Player of the Year... selected for Montana Shrine Game.

Academics  An English major.

Will Martell

6-1, 185, Fr, RS, Bozeman, MT (Bozeman)

Montana State  (2017) Begins his varsity career as a reserve safety expected to contribute on special teams. (2016) Redshirted at MSU.

High School  Helped lead Bozeman High to an undefeated state title in 2015... all-conference defensive back.

Academics  A business major.
Montana State  (2017) A 2017 team captain... enters the season as a starting safety. (2016) Started all 11 games, leading the team in pass breakups (nine) and finishing third in tackles (75)... earned Second Team All-Big Sky honors... logged 10 solo tackles against Eastern Washington, with a forced fumble... picked off a Bryant pass, returning it 24 yards, and broke up another... broke up two passes against both Sac State and NAU... forced a team-high three fumbles (EWU, Idaho, North Dakota).  (2015) Played in six games, including the last five... missed five early-season games with an injury... logged 27 tackles, and broke up five passes... career-high seven tackles against Idaho State, with three passes broken up.

Iowa Western  Recorded 59 tackles, including 4.5 for loss with one sack, at Iowa Western in 2014... intercepted two passes and broke up one.

South Dakota State  Redshirted at SDSU in 2013.

Montana State  (2017) Enters the fall in competition for time at linebacker... can also play defensive end. (2016) Played in all 11 games as a reserve defensive end and special teams standout... logged three tackles in back-to-back games against Sac State and NAU... hurried the quarterback once against EWU.

Fullerton College  Finished his sophomore season at Fullerton with 11.5 tackles for loss and seven sacks... forced three fumbles...

High School  Earned all-conference honors at running back for Sonora High.

Academics  A sociology major.

Personal  Born Jakob Thomas McCarthy in Fullerton, California... the son of Mike and Beth McCarthy... his twin brother, Lukas, plays for the Cats.

Montana State  (2017) A 2017 team captain... enters the season as a starting safety. (2016) Started all 11 games, leading the team in pass breakups (nine) and finishing third in tackles (75)... earned Second Team All-Big Sky honors... logged 10 solo tackles against Eastern Washington, with a forced fumble... picked off a Bryant pass, returning it 24 yards, and broke up another... broke up two passes against both Sac State and NAU... forced a team-high three fumbles (EWU, Idaho, North Dakota).  (2015) Played in six games, including the last five... missed five early-season games with an injury... logged 27 tackles, and broke up five passes... career-high seven tackles against Idaho State, with three passes broken up.

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Montana State  (2017) Enters the fall in competition for time at linebacker... can also play defensive end. (2016) Played in all 11 games as a reserve defensive end and special teams standout... logged three tackles in back-to-back games against Sac State and NAU... hurried the quarterback once against EWU.

Fullerton College  Finished his sophomore season at Fullerton with 11.5 tackles for loss and seven sacks... forced three fumbles...

High School  Earned all-conference honors at running back for Sonora High.

Academics  A sociology major.

Personal  Born Jakob Thomas McCarthy in Fullerton, California... the son of Mike and Beth McCarthy... his twin brother, Lukas, plays for the Cats.
11 Linebacker
Lukas McCarthy
6-1, 220, Sr, 1V, La Habra, CA (Fullerton JC/Sonora)

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall in competition for starting honors at the Mike linebacker spot. (2016) Played in 10 games as a reserve linebacker and special teams standout... became the 10th Bobcat on record to force two fumbles in one game when he knocked the ball out twice against Western Oregon... season-high four tackles in that game, three against Sac State.

Fullerton College Logged seven tackles-for-loss, four sacks and a forced fumble as a sophomore at Fullerton.

Academics A sociology major.

Personal Born Lukas McCarthy in Fullerton, California... the son of Mike and Beth McCarthy... his twin brother, Jakob, plays for the Cats.

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2016 Season Stats

High School A two-time Great Falls Tribune Superstate selection after a sensational career at Kalispell Glacier, which included one state title and another runner-up finish... threw for 6,527 yards in his career and gained 7,052 total yards, both school records... his 82 touchdown passes is also the most in Glacier history, and he completed 59.4% (397-of-668) of his passes... a first team all-state choice and Badlands Bowl and Montana Shrine Game selection.

Academics Majors in mechanical engineering... a National Honor Society member at Glacier, where he was also a student mentor.

Personal Born Brady Todd McChesney in Kalispell... one of three children of Shane McChesney and Phil and Shaney Neuharth.

51 Linebacker
Jackson McCleery
6-1, 225, Fr, HS, Santa Ana, CA (Mater Dei)


High School Earned First Team All-Trinity League honors as a senior in 2016... elected team captain, and named Monarch of the Year.

Academics Enrolled in University Studies.

Personal The son of Jody and Troy McCleery... brothers AJ and Cameron.

14 Quarterback
Brady McChesney
5-11, 190, So, Sq, Kalispell, MT (Glacier)

Montana State (2017) Enters the season in competition for backup quarterback honors. (2016) Played as a reserve quarterback... saw no game action... named the team’s top offensive scout after the season. (2015) Redshirted at MSU.
Wide Receiver
Lance McCutcheon
6-2, 190, Fr, HS, Bozeman, MT (Bozeman)
Montana State (2017) Entered the fall as second team receiver... considered likely to see varsity action after a strong summer.
High School Helped lead Bozeman High to the 2015 Class AA State Championship... team captain as a senior, when he earned First Team Class AA All-State honors at receiver and cornerback... first team all-conference at both positions, as well. caught 40 passes for 780 yards as a senior, with 12 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, including a pick-six... two-time Academic All-State... lettered in track and field and basketball.
Academics Enrolled in University Studies.
Personal The son of Katie Brooks and Mike Figgins... played for Levi Wesche at Bozeman High... has worked at Justus Downtown in Bozeman for former Bobcat Josh Perkins, a local businessman.

Offensive Line
Brody McKnight
6-3, 295, Fr, HS, Sammamish, WA (Eastside Catholic)
Montana State (2017) A young offensive lineman who could add depth this season.
High School Huntington Beach’s offensive lineman of the year as a senior... #21 on Best Committed List in Orange County... lettered twice each in baseball and football, and posted highest GPA on his football squad.
Academics An accounting major with a minor in MSU’s excellent Entrepreneurship program.
Personal The son of Chad McKnight... played for former Bobcat assistant coach Jeremy Thielbahr at Eastside Catholic in Seattle... was a teammate of current Bobcat Alex Neale.

Offensive Line
Jake McFetridge
6-6, 295, So, 1V, Huntington Beach, CA (Huntington Beach)
High School Huntington Beach’s offensive lineman of the year as a senior... #21 on Best Committed List in Orange County... lettered twice each in baseball and football, and posted highest GPA on his football squad.
Academics An accounting major with a minor in MSU’s excellent Entrepreneurship program.
Personal Born Jacob E. McFetridge in Huntington Beach, California... one of three children of Evan and Joanne McFetridge.

Quarterback
Chris Murray
6-1, 245, So, 1V, Belgrade, MT (Belgrade)
Montana State (2017) Enters the season as MSU’s starting quarterback. (2016) Started the last five games of the season, including a season-ending win at Montana... selected as a Freshman All-America and Big Sky Freshman of the Year... his 1,638 total offense yards was third in school history by a freshman, and his 860 yards the most ever by a Bobcat freshman.
High School A first team all-conference selection at Lawndale High School... earned Ocean League MVP honors, leading his team to a conference title. also an all-conference selection in track and basketball.
Academics A kinesiology major.
Personal Born Christopher Lee Murray in Inglewood, California... the son of Hilda Valenzuela... former prep teammates include Sacramento State’s Bryant Perkinson and Jalen Walker of Boise State.
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UND 0-1-0 0 0 2 -2 0
SAC 4-12-0 104 0 16 187 3
NAU 7-16-1 50 0 9 33 3
WSU * 10-18-2 199 3 19 131 0
EWU * 5-12-2 71 1 13 74 1
SUU * 8-17-3 159 2 19 106 1
UCD * 7-13-0 66 0 14 98 1
UM * 2-9-0 37 0 26 142 2

70 Center
Alex Neale
6-3, 285, Jr, 1V, Duvall, WA (Eastside Catholic)

UNLV Played in five games on the offensive line as a true freshman in 2015.

High School Lettered four time at Eastside Catholic, where he played for former Bobcat assistant Jeremy Thielbahr... helped lead his team to a 13-1 record and state title as a senior, earning first team all-state, all-area and all-district honors... captained the football team as a senior, when he earned a three-star rating from 247 Sports and Scout... also a four-time wrestling letterman, advancing to the state meet as a junior.

Academics A civil engineering major.

Personal Born Alex Paul Neale in Portland, Ore... one of four children of Robert and Renee Neale.

30 Linebacker
Sean Opland
6-0, 205, Fr, RS, Troy, MT (Troy)


High School A 2015 Great Falls Tribune Superstate choice... four-time all-conference choice in football who was all-state three times... also starred for Troy in track and basketball.

Academics A civil engineering major.

Personal Born Sean Michael Opland in Troy, Montana... one of two children of Tor and Dawn Opland.

47 Defensive Back
Ty Okada
5-10, 170, Fr, HS, Woodbury, MN (East Ridge)

Montana State (2017) Enters the season as a reserve DB.

High School A standout athlete at East Ridge High, where he was District Offensive Player of the Year as a senior quarterback... also all-conference in baseball and wrestling.

Academics A business major.

Personal Born Tyler Christian Okada in Woodbury, Minnesota... one of two children of Chris and Michelle Okada... his father, Chris, was a Mankato State swimmer, and former teammate Grant Ryers plays football at Minnesota.

19 Quarterback
Callahan O’Reilly
6-2, 215, Fr, HS, Bozeman, MT (Bozeman)

Montana State (2017) Begins the fall as a reserve quarterback.

High School Second Team All-Class AA and First Team All-Conference quarterback for the Bozeman Hawks in 2016... threw for 3,178 yards, rushed for 379, and accounted for 39 total touchdowns... played on Bozeman’s 2015 state title team, which finished 13-1... three-time academic all-state and two-time basketball letterwinner.

Academics A financial engineering major.

Personal One of four children of Keith and Debby O’Reilly... played for Levi Wesche at Bozeman High... born Callahan Peter O’Reilly in Bozeman... his mother played basketball at Arizona State, his father played football at Carroll, and his brother Payton plays football at Miami (Ohio)... uncle Shane Collins played football for the Redskins and at Arizona State, and cousin Grant Collins is a Bobcat teammate... former Bozeman High teammates include Balue Chapman and Will Martel of MSU, and North Dakota State baseball standout Bennett Hostetler.
**Punter**

**Jered Padmos**

6-1, 190, So, 1V, Boulder, MT (Jefferson Co.)

**Montana State** (2017) Enters the year as the incumbent punter. *(2016)* Won MSU’s punting job in the preseason and started all 11 games in that role... averaged 39.7 yards per punt with a long of 76 yards vs. Western Oregon... only two touchbacks with 10 pinned inside the 20-yard line on 58 punts... forced 18 fumbles and five of them longer than 50... rushed once for nine yards against Bryant... completed his only pass attempt of the year, a 17-yarder against NAU.

**High School** Chosen as a 2015 Great Falls Tribune Superstate selection... averaged 37.8 yards per punt... hit three field goals of 40 yards or longer... registered 40 touchdodaks on 61 kickoffs... set school records for longest field goal, most PATs in a season and career, most field goals in a season and career, and career points... three-time all-conference kicker, two-time all-conference punter, all-conference defensive back, and all-state in track.

**Academics** An elementary education major... academic all-state in high school

**Personal** Born Jered Skyler Padmos in Helena... one of three children of Robert and Mary Gayle Padmos... has assisted with the Montana City youth summer programs in the past.

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**Wide Receiver**

**Justin Paige**

6-0, 175, Sr, 3V, Katy, TX (Morton Ranch)

**Montana State** (2017) Begins his senior season as a staple in the Bobcat receiving corps. *(2016)* Started all 10 of the games in which he played, missing the Weber State contest... caught 15 passes for 190 yards, the lowest yards-per-catch rate of his career... caught just one pass in his last four games. *(2015)* Started all 11 games... sixth on the team with 13 catches, but fourth with 453 yards and third with four TD catches... caught two passes for 104 yards against NAU and two for 92 yards against ETSU. *(2014)* Emerged as an offensive weapon during fall camp, and proved a productive receiver throughout his freshman campaign... played in 10 games and started three, missing three mid-season games with injuries... caught 12 passes for 379 yards and three touchdowns... caught a 75-yard TD pass against UC Davis and a 48-yarder against Sacramento State... averaged an eye-popping 31.6 yards per catch last year.

**High School** A versatile athlete who earned team MVP honors at Morton Ranch High School in Katy, Tex., as a senior... caught 18 passes for 473 yards, averaging 27.4 yards per catch.

**Academics** Studies kinesiology.
Montana State (2017) Begins his freshman season in contention for playing time at receiver.

High School Earned First Team All-State honors as an all-purpose back... two-time 2A SPSL League MVP after leading the state in all-purpose yards as a senior... three-time team captain... Defensive MVP for his school’s basketball team, and competed in track, as well... voted Tacoma Athlete of the Year.

Academics A marketing major.... honor role and Dean’s List as a senior at Franklin Pierce.

Personal Born William Benton Patterson in Tackoa... one of five children of Pat and Lisa Patterson... his father played football at Central Washington, and cousin Stevie Jonatell played football at Wake Forest and Western Kentucky, and with the Seahawks... former prep teammate Dakota Smith plays football at Linfield.... has worked as a referee for youth sports in the summer months.

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall in competition for starting honors at running back.

High School Named 2015 Tom Landry Classic Offensive MVP... 2015 Class 5A All-State selection at kicker as a senior.

Academics Enrolled in University Studies.

2016 Season Stats

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2016 Season Stats

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Fou Palataivao

6-1, 320, Sr, 1V, Medford, OR (San Mateo/North Medford)

Montana State (2017) Enters the season in competition for time at the nose. (2016) Played in eight games after transferring to MSU during the summer... logged four assisted tackles.

San Mateo Registered 18 tackles with two sacks and a fumble recovery as a sophomore.

High School A four-year starter at North Medford.

Academics A sociology major.

Personal Born Alafou P. Polataivao in San Jose, California... one of seven children of Impati and Olepa Polataivao.

Zach Redd

6-0, 285, Fr, HS, Meridian, ID (Rocky Mountain)


High School Two-year offensive line starter who helped lead Rocky Mountain to 2015 Idaho Class 5A State Championship... First Team 5A All-State as a junior and senior, when his team compiled a 20-4 record.

Academics A business management major.

Personal The son of Steve and Joan Redd... played for Scott Criner at Rocky Mountain High.

Jake Roper

5-10, 190, Fr, Tr, Boise, ID (Boise State/Rocky Mountain)

Montana State (2017) Begins the fall in competition for starting running back honors.

Boise State Redshirted in the fall of 2016.

High School Helped lead Rocky Mountain High to the Idaho 5A State Championship in 2015... rushed for 1,470 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior, earning First Team All-State honors twice... two-time All-Idaho choice by Max Preps, which ranked him as the top player in Idaho as a senior.

Academics A psychology major.

Tucker Rovig

6-5, 205, Fr, HS, Meridian, ID (Mountain View)


High School Led Mountain View to 2016 Idaho Class 5A State Championship... two-time First Team All-State... threw for 5,459 yards and 69 touchdowns in his career, compiling a 22-3 record as starting quarterback... three-time Academic All-Conference and a three-time qualifier for the Idaho 5A State Track Championships... set nine school records.

Academics Majors in kinesiology.

Personal Born Tucker Dean Rovig in Boise... one of three children of Kelby and Jenna Rovig... played for Judd Benedick at Mountain View... a cousin, Isaiah Wright, plays basketball at Utah... a former prep teammate of Idaho State’s Trey Bell.
Defensive Line
Kyle Rygg
6-4, 250, Fr, HS, Eugene, OR (Sheldon)

Montana State  (2017) Begins his Bobcat career as a true freshman defensive lineman.

High School  Registered 70 tackles and nine sacks as a senior, helping lead Sheldon to a 10-2 record... First Team All-League and Second Team All-State as a senior... also competed in basketball and track and field.

Academics  An chemical engineering major.

Personal  Born Kyle Rygg in Eugene, Oregon... one of two children of Jerry and Nicole Rygg... former prep teammate of Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert, Bobcat receiver Mitch Herbert’s brother... played for Lane Johnson at Sheldon.

Wide Receiver
Coy Steel
5-8, 165, Fr, HS, Sheridan, WY (Sheridan)


High School  A three-time all-conference and two-time all-state selection at Sheridan High who was Wyoming’s 2016 Gatorade Player of the Year... played on a pair of state championship teams... also starred in basketball and baseball.

Academics  A civil engineering major.

Personal  Born Coy Michael Steel in Laramie, Wyoming... one of four children of Amy Steel and Dan Godwin.

Offensive Line
Jake Sessions
6-5, 280, Fr, RS, Colstrip, MT (Colstrip)


High School  A 2015 Great Falls Tribune Superstate selection... selected for next summer’s Montana Shrine Game... three-year starter... standout wrestler.

Academics  A construction engineering technology major.

Personal  Born Jacob Ross Sessions in Colstrip... one of three children of Wes and Jody Sessions.

Wide Receiver
Keon Stephens
6-2, 185, So, 1V, Rancho Cucamonga, CA (Etiwanda)


High School  First team all-league receiver... caught 39 passes for 701 yards, averaging 100 yards a game and 18 yards a catch... first team all-area and all-county, as well.

Academics  Enrolled in University Studies.

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Connor Sullivan

Tight End

6-5, 250, Jr, 2V, Ennis, MT (Ennis)

Montana State (2017) Begins the fall as MSU’s starting tight end. (2016) Played in all 11 games, starting the season opener against Idaho... caught seven passes, including arguably the season’s biggest, a 26-yarder that sealed the team’s win at Montana... caught a 53-yard touchdown pass against Eastern Washington... logged his third career multi-catch game against North Dakota. (2015) Caught five passes in a very good redshirt freshman season... caught two passes each against Fort Lewis and Eastern Washington and one in the finale against Montana. (2014) Redshirted at MSU... Offensive Scout of the Week once.

High School Helped lead Ennis to 2013 Class C State Championship... First Team All-State receiver... 50 catches for 918 yards, 18.4 per catch, and 16 touchdowns... 40 tackles and seven interceptions... Great Falls Tribune Superstate choice... team captain... selected for Montana Shrine and Mon-Dak all-star games.

Academics An elementary education major.

Personal Born Connor John Sullivan on September 3, 1996 in Butte... one of two children of John Sullivan and stepmother Cindy, and Stacey Pederson and stepfather Roy Pederson... his mother and father each played basketball at UM Western, and his sister Mikayla played volleyball at Montana Tech.

Tyrel Thomas

Defensive Back

5-8, 175, Fr, HS, Compton, CA (St. John Bosco)

Montana State (2017) In competition for time in the secondary.

High School Helped lead St. John Bosco to the 2016 CIF State Championship, finishing the season as the nation’s second-ranked team... registered 92 tackles, six interceptions, two touchdowns, a sack and a forced fumble as a senior... Second Team All-Trinity League.

Academics A business management major.

Personal The son of Durel and Keisha Thomas... played for Jason Negro at St. John Bosco.

Karl Tucker II

Wide Receiver

6-0, 200, So, 1V, Great Falls, MT (CM Russell)

Montana State (2017) Begins the season as a possibility to contribute at receiver and on kick teams. (2016) Played in all 11 games, primarily on special teams... compiled no statistics.

High School Selected for the 2014 and 2015 Great Falls Tribune Superstate Team... selected for Montana Shrine Bowl... caught 73 passes for 1,066 yards as a senior... 130 career catches is a school record... also an all-state basketball player at CMR.

Academics An exercise science major.

Personal Born Karl S. Tucker II in England... one of four children of Karl and Andrea Tucker... former prep teammates include MSU’s Dylan Mahoney and Andrew Grinde of Yale.
Taylor Tuiasosopo

6-3, 295, Fr, RS, Lancaster, CA (Paraclete)

Montana State (2017) In competition for playing time in the offensive line and on kick teams. (2016) Redshirted at MSU.

High School Chosen for 2015 Polynesian All-American Game... First Team All-State, First Team All-CIF selection

Academics A business major.

Personal Born Taylor Pio-Cyrus Tuiasosopo in Carson, California... one of five children of Titus and Cheannie Tuiasosopo... former prep teammate Melquise Stovall plays at Cal, and friend Todd Davis plays for the Denver Broncos.

Nich Van Horssen

5-9, 190, Fr, RS, Clancy, MT (Helena)


High School A standout at Helena High.

Academics A cell biology and neuroscience major.

Edward Vander

6-0, 205, So, JC, Mission Viejo, CA (Saddleback/Paramount)


Saddleback College Transferred to MSU after the spring semester, with three years of eligibility... rushed for 1,175 yards and 18 touchdowns as a freshman at Saddleback, catching 30 passes for 467 yards... broke school records in rushes, yards and total touchdowns... conference freshman of the year in 2016.

High School First team all-conference as a junior at JSerra, earning Orange Empire, San Gabriel League and team offensive MVP honors as a senior... finished his prep career at Paramount, earning San Gabriel Valley League MVP honors... second team all-state safety as a sophomore.

Academics An education major.

Personal Born Edward Louis Vander in Long Beach... one of six children of Kendra Howard and John Williams, and Edward Vander... former JSerra teammates include Washington’s Dante Pettis, Nick Harris and Luke Metternberg, and Oregon State’s Jeffrey Manning.

Damien Washington

5-11, 180, So, 1V, Covina, CA (Charter Oaks)

Montana State (2017) Competing for a starting cornerback spot. (2016) Played in the season’s final 10 games, primarily as the nickel... season-high four tackles against Eastern Washington, three more at Montana... broke up two Sac State passes, and one each in three other games.

High School A First Team All-Hacienda League selection in 2015.

Personal One of four children of Darrel Washington and Sharon Washington... born in Pomona, California... a former prep teammate of MSU’s Khari Garcia.
Offensive Line

Wade Webster

6-6, 295, Jr, Sq, Bettendorf, IA (Bettendorf)


High School Helped lead Bettendorf to playoffs as a senior... earned Second Team All-State and First Team All-Conference and All-Metro honors.

Academics A plant science major.

Personal Born Richard Wade Webster in Bettendorf, Iowa... one of two children of Rich and Kristi Webster... his brother Cole plays football at Northern Illinois.

West Wilson

5-11, 205, Sr, 3V, Columbia, MO (Rock Bridge)


High School Earned all-district honors in football and as a member of the 4x100 m relay in track... team captain as a senior, logging 74 tackles.

Academics A finance major... National Honor Society member.

Personal Born Westling Conrad Wilson on December 30, 1994 in Columbia, Mo... the son of Bruce and Elizabeth Wilson... former teammates include Trey Millard of the San Francisco 49ers, AJ Logan and Austin Ray of Missouri, Alex Ofodile of Oregon, Chase Rome of Nebraska, Zach Reuter and Ian Patterson of Kansas State, Paris Logan of Northern Illinois, Ross Alexander of Georgia Southern, Mike Stannard and Jace Neville of Memphis, Skylar Hinton of Wyoming, Shawn Rush of Northern Iowa, Kenny James and Carl Bivens of Southern Illinois, and Freeman Simmons and Mark Pickrel of South Dakota State... a travel enthusiast who has visited all 50 states and 13 countries... enjoys shooting and editing videos... RBHS activities included Senior Class Representative, Athletic Student Body President, Senior Banquet host, Bruin Cup Student Board President, Student Council, RBHS Senior Mentor, People to People International Student Ambassador.

Connor Wood

6-5, 310, Fr, HS, Meridian, ID (Rocky Mountain)

Montana State (2017) Begins his Bobcat career as a reserve offensive lineman.

High School Helped lead Mountain View to 2015 Idaho Class 5A State Championship... an offensive lineman who scored two touchdowns as a senior... Second Team All-SIC selection who was chosen for the East-West All-Star game.

Academics A finance major... an honor roll student at Rocky Mountain.

Personal Born Conner Jace Wood in Boise... one of two children of Darih J. and Jaylene Wood.
Defensive Line

Zach Wright

6-3, 270, Jr, 2V, New Braunfels, TX (New Braunfels)

Montana State (2017) Enters the fall as MSU’s starting defensive tackle... College Sports Madness Preseason All-America.
(2016) Started all 11 games for the Cats... hurried the quarterback twice (Idaho, EWU) and broke up a Sac State pass. (2015) Played in five games... logged one assisted tackle and a quarterback hurry. (2014) Redshirted at MSU.

High School Earned First Team All-District as a senior, when he also served as a team captain... San Antonio Area All-Star... registered 65 tackles in 2013, 10 for a loss with six sacks, forcing two fumbles and breaking up a pair of passes... First Team All-District as a junior... finished sixth in the discus at the state track and field championships... logged 71 tackles as a junior, four for a loss... Second Team All-District as a sophomore, and Second Team All-Comal County.

Academics A business major.

Personal Born Zachary William Wright in New Braunfels, Texas... one of two children of Matthew and Robin Wright... his father played football at Texas State... invented technology used by law enforcement professionals and managing a startup business with, among others, several former Bobcat teammates.

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Defensive Line

Tucker Yates

6-0, 295, Jr, 2V, Colstrip, MT (Colstrip)

Montana State (2017) Begins the season in competition for starting nose tackle honors. (2016) Played in nine games, starting the six games before missing two with an injury... season-high five tackles, one for a loss, at Sac State... four tackles against Montana. (2015) Played in eight games, starting five, as a red-shirt freshman... posted 22 tackles, including one for a loss (vs. Sac State)... recovered a fumble against Portland State. (2014) Redshirted at MSU... named MSU’s Defensive Scout of the Week three times.

High School Three-time Class A All-State selection in football on the offensive and defensive lines... three-time Class A State Champion wrestler, two-time state shot put champion... Great Falls Tribune Superstate choice, chosen for Montana Shrine and Mon-Dak all-star games.

Academics Enrolled in University Studies.

Personal Born Tucker Don Yates in Billings... one of three children of Stacy and Kim Yates.

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2016 Season Stats

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WEB * 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
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UM * 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

2015 Season Stats

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BRY * 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
WOU * 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
UND * 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
SAC * 1 4 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
NAU * 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
WEB * 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
EWU Did not play
SUU Did not play
UCD Did not play
UM Did not play
Montana State  (2017) Begins his career as a reserve defensive lineman.

High School  Logged 101 tackles with six sacks and four forced fumbles in his career at Orange Lutheran... ranked as a three-star recruit and the top defensive lineman in southern California, and the 96th-rated strong side defensive end in the nation... his father (Shane) and brother (Timothy) each served two combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Timothy is a Purple Heart recipient.

Academics  A business major.

Personal  Born Travis Reid Yates... one of five children of Shane and Karon Yates.
Late Additions

46 Sal Aguilar, LB
6-1, 210, Fr, HS, Santa Ana, CA (Mater Dei)
Joined the Bobcats over the summer... projects as a developmental linebacker prospect.... Earned First Team All-Trinity League honors at Mater Dei in the fall of 2016, logging 7.5 sacks... was Mater Dei’s Defensive MVP.... Majors in business... Born Salvador Aguilar in Santa Ana, CA... the son of Salvador Aguilar and Sarah Winchester Taylor.

39 Shawn Borges, S
5-11, 190, Fr, HS, Honolulu, HI (Damien)
Begins his Bobcat career as a reserve safety likely ticketed for a redshirt season.... Logged 74 tackles, 16.5 for a loss, with seven interceptions and three sacks as a senior... earned Hawaii Division II Defensive Player of the Year honors... Majors in Environmental Design... Born Shawn Kanaka Keahonoi Borges in Honolulu... one of three children of Brian Borges and his wife Hannah, and Tracy Kalahiki and her husband Casey... his father Brian played football and Lewis & Clark College, and his uncle Chris Smith played at Willamette.

17 Jacob Byrne, S
5-10, 170, Fr, HS, Missoula, MT (Loyola)
Joins the team as a walk-on.... An All-Class B selection at Missoula Loyola in football and track... captained both squads... An exercise science major... Born Jacob Fitzgerald Byrne in Missoula... one of two children of Bob and Becky Byrne... his father played football for the Bobcats... a friend, Steven Pfahler, played for the Titans.

98 Elu Leota, DL
6-0, 315, Fr, HS, Euless, TX (Trinity)
Montana State (2017) Arrived at MSU in late July... cousin of former Bobcats Na’a Moeakiola and Toti Moeakiola... played at Texas prep powerhouse Euless Trinity.

83 Kapili Livingston-Lopez, WR
5-8, 155, Fr, HS, Honolulu, HI (Damien)
Montana State (2017) Enters camp with the possibility of redshirting... First team all-conference receiver as a senior... caught 25 passes for over 450 yards that season... A mechanical engineering major... Born James Kapilioha Livingston-Lopez in Honolulu... one of four children of James and Nanea Livingston.

62 Logan MacDonald, LS
6-1, 175, Fr, HS, Moraga, CA (Campolindo)
Begins his career as a reserve snapper... Played on Campolindo’s 2014, ‘15 and ‘16 conference title teams... Industrial systems management engineering major... Born Logan Cole MacDonald in Lafayette, California... one of three children of Robert and Michelle MacDonald... has worked ouring concrete in the summer months.

19 Luke May, QB
6-0, 200, Fr, Tr, Whitefish, MT (Minnesota/Whitefish)
Transferred to MSU in the summer from Minnesota, where he competed as a javelin thrower for the Gophers... eligible immediately, and will compete for time at quarterback... Competed in track and field at Minnesota in 2016... Team captain at CMR as a senior, when he earned First Team All-State and All-Conference honors as both an offensive and defensive lineman... Grat Falls Tribune Superstate choice chosen for the Mon-Dak and Montana Shrine games... Enrolled in University Studies... earned Academic All-Big 10 honors... Born Luke Eric May in Mesa, Arizona... one of two children of Eric and Amy May... his grandfather Buck played football for the Bobcats, and was a long-time Whitefish businessman... family friend Murray Craven played for the Philadelphia Flyers.
Four tremendous dual-threat Bobcat quarterbacks, clockwise from top left, in their first five Bobcat starts: Chris Murray gained 1,083 total yards with 11 touchdowns in 2016, DeNarius McGhee accounted for 1,440 yards and 10 TDs in 2010, Travis Lulay rolled up 1,346 yards and nine TDs in 2002, and Dakota Prukop had 1,470 yards and 14 TDs in 2014.
### 2016 Statistics

#### TEAM STATISTICS

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#### Fumbles

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#### CHRIS MURRAY

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**Game-by-Game Leaders**

Opponent | Tackles | Tackles for Loss | Sacks | Interceptions | Fumbles Rec'd | Fumbles Forced |
--------|---------|-----------------|-------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
Idaho  | 10-Mac Bignell | 1-LaBoy/Collins | 1-Collins | 1-Tr'von Strong | 1-Grant Collins | 1-Bryson McCabe |
Bryant | 10-Mac Bignell | 1-Bignell/G.Collins | 1-Bignell/G.Collins | 2-Walker | 1-Bignell/F.Collins | 1-F. Collins |
Western Oregon | 7-Fletcher Collins | 2-Mac Bignell | 2-J. McCarthy | 1-Hill/Wilson/Walker | none | 2-L. McCarthy |
North Dakota | 11-Mac Bignell | 3-Mac Bignell | 1-Bignell/G.Collins | 1-F. Collins/Garcia | 1-Herbert | 1-F. Collins/McCabe |
Sacramento State | 11-Bryson McCabe | 3-Mac Bignell | 1-Bignell/Ferrel/Brassie | 1-F. Collins/Garcia | 1-Herbert | 1-Bignell |
Northern Arizona | 9-Bryson McCabe | 2-Josh Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
Weber State | 10-Khari Garcia | 2-Woody Brandom | 1-Woody Brandom | 0 | 0 | 1-Bryson McCabe |
Eastern Washington | 15-Mac Bignell | 2-Mac Bignell | 1-Woody Brandom | 0 | 0 | 0 |
Southern Utah | 11-Fletcher Collins | 2-Fletcher Collins | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
UC Davis | 9-Bryson McCabe | 2-Grant Collins | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
Montana | 8-J. Hill/G. Collins | 1-Derek Marks | 0.5-Bignell/Marks | 1-Josh Hill | none | 1-Josh Hill |

---

**Opponents**

North Dakota 11-Mac Bignell 3-Mac Bignell 1-Bignell/G. Collins none 1-Josh Hill
Sacramento State 10-Mac Bignell 9-Bryson McCabe 2-Woody Brandom none 1-Josh Hill
Northern Arizona 11-Mac Bignell 9-Bryson McCabe 2-Josh Hill 0 0 0
Weber State 10-Khari Garcia 15-Mac Bignell 2-Woody Brandom none 1-Josh Hill
Eastern Washington 11-Fletcher Collins 9-Bryson McCabe 2-Grant Collins none 1-Josh Hill
Southern Utah 8-J. Hill/G. Collins 1-Derek Marks 0.5-Bignell/Marks none 1-Josh Hill
UC Davis 11-Mac Bignell 1-Bignell/Ferrel/Brassie 1-F. Collins/Garcia 0 0 0
Montana 8-J. Hill/G. Collins 1-Derek Marks 0.5-Bignell/Marks 1-Josh Hill none 0

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**Game-by-Game Leaders**

Opponent | Tackles | Tackles for Loss | Sacks | Interceptions | Fumbles Rec'd | Fumbles Forced |
--------|---------|-----------------|-------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
Idaho  | 10-Mac Bignell | 1-LaBoy/Collins | 1-Collins | 1-Tr'von Strong | 1-Grant Collins | 1-Bryson McCabe |
Bryant | 10-Mac Bignell | 1-Bignell/G.Collins | 1-Bignell/G.Collins | 2-Walker | 1-Bignell/F.Collins | 1-F. Collins |
Western Oregon | 7-Fletcher Collins | 2-Mac Bignell | 2-J. McCarthy | 1-Hill/Wilson/Walker | none | 2-L. McCarthy |
North Dakota | 11-Mac Bignell | 3-Mac Bignell | 1-Bignell/G.Collins | 1-F. Collins/Garcia | 1-Herbert | 1-F. Collins/McCabe |
Sacramento State | 11-Bryson McCabe | 3-Mac Bignell | 1-Bignell/Ferrel/Brassie | 1-F. Collins/Garcia | 1-Herbert | 1-Bignell |
Northern Arizona | 9-Bryson McCabe | 2-Josh Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
Weber State | 10-Khari Garcia | 2-Woody Brandom | 1-Woody Brandom | 0 | 0 | 1-Bryson McCabe |
Eastern Washington | 15-Mac Bignell | 2-Mac Bignell | 1-Woody Brandom | 0 | 0 | 0 |
Southern Utah | 11-Fletcher Collins | 2-Fletcher Collins | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
UC Davis | 9-Bryson McCabe | 2-Grant Collins | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
Montana | 8-J. Hill/G. Collins | 1-Derek Marks | 0.5-Bignell/Marks | 1-Josh Hill | none | 1-Josh Hill |
### Defensive Individual Game-by-Game Stats

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### 2016 Bobcats Game-by-Game

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### 2016 Starters Game-by-Game

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2016 Bobcat Honors

All-America Honors
**Third Team:** OG JP Flynn (STATS)
**Freshman All-America:** QB Chris Murray (Hero Sports - 1st Team), OT Mitch Brott (Hero Sports - 1st Team)

Academic Honors
**Hampshire Honor Society:** RB Gunnar Brekke, RB Chad Newell

2016 Post-Season Honors
**ALL-AMERICA**
OG JP Flynn (3rd Team - STATS)

**FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICA**
QB Chris Murray (1st Team - Hero Sports), OT Mitch Brott (1st Team - Hero Sports)

2016 Team Awards
**Players Choice Awards**
Sonny Holland Off. MVP
Chad Newell
Bill Kollar Def. MVP
Bryson McCabe
Jan Stenerud ST MVP
Joey Michael

**Don Hass Inspirational**
Chad Newell

**Coaches Choice Awards**
Dennis Erickson Offensive
JP Flynn
Joe Tiller Defensive
Mac Bignell
Ken Amato Kick Teams
Brayden Konkol

**Top Offensive Scout**
Brady McChesney

**Top Defensive Scout**
Balue Chapman

**Top Kick Teams Scout**
Koni Dole

**Hayden Ferguson Academic Award**
Matt Brownlow

**Ride for the Brand**
Gunnar Brekke

**Young Gun Weight Room Award**
Chase Benson

2016 Pre-Season Honors
**STATS PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA**
OG JP Flynn

**PRESEASON ALL-BIG SKY**
OG JP Flynn, RB Chad Newell, LB Mac Bignell

2016 Records Watch
**Career Rushing Touchdowns**
1. Chris Murray, 2016-
3. John Cardinal, 1982-83
5. Shon Flores, 1998-99
7. Neal Smith, 1994-97
8. Brad Daly, 2009, '11-13
9. Rick Gatewood, 2004-05
10. Jon Ellis, 2010-13
11. Rob Tesch, 1989-92
12. Tanner Bleskin, 2010-13
13. Ron Bain, 1966-68
14. Delmar Jones, 1975-78
15. Tom White, 1982-85
16. Sam McCullum, 1971-73
17. Dan Sundling, 1962-64
18. Delmar Jones, 1975-78
19. Chad Newell, 2013-16
20. Cody Kirk, 2010-
21. JOHN CARLSON, 1983-86
22. Cody Kirk, 2010-
23. Chad Newell, 2013-16
27. John Tetrault, 1982-85
28. Travis Lulay, 2002-05
29. Delmar Jones, 1976-79
30. Dennis Erickson, 1966-68
31. Steve Kracher, 1972-75
32. Chris Murray, 2016-
33. 101.5 Don Hass, 1965-67
34. 94.9 Demetrius Crawford, 2008-09
35. 88.9 Ryan Johnson, 1999-2002
36. 76.2 Chris Murray, 2016-
37. 76.2 Dakota Prukop, 2013-15
38. 76.0 Bruce Molook, 2003
39. 74.7 Matt Engelking, 1993-96
40. 6.23 Chris Murray, 2016-
41. 6.12 Shawn Johnson, 2011-14
42. 6.06 Steve Kracher, 1972-75
43. 5.5 Delmar Jones, 1975-78
44. 5.4 Dakota Prukop, 2013-15
45. 5.4 Dan Sundling, 1962-64
46. 5.3 Tom Kostba, 1974-76
47. 5.3 Cody Kirk, 2010-13

2017 Records Watch
**Career Rushing Yards/Game**
1. 101.5 Don Hass, 1965-67
2. 94.9 Demetrius Crawford, 2008-09
3. 88.9 Ryan Johnson, 1999-2002
8. 76.2 Chris Murray, 2016-
9. 76.0 Bruce Molook, 2003
6. 74.7 Matt Engelking, 1993-96
5. 6.23 Chris Murray, 2016-
4. 6.12 Shawn Johnson, 2011-14
3. 6.06 Steve Kracher, 1972-75
2. 5.5 Delmar Jones, 1975-78
1. 5.4 Dakota Prukop, 2013-15
8. 5.4 Dan Sundling, 1962-64
6. 5.3 Tom Kostba, 1974-76
5. 5.3 Cody Kirk, 2010-13

Mitchell Herbert
**Career Touchdown Catches**
1. 21 Kelly Davis, 1983-86
2. 18* Elvis Akpla, 2009-11
3. 18* Chip Hobbs, 1995-99
4. 16 Sam McCullum, 1971-73
5. 14 Tom White, 1982-85
6. 14 Ron Bain, 1966-68
7. 13 Tanner Bleskin, 2010-13
8. 13 Rick Gatewood, 2004-05
9. 13 Mitchell Herbert, 2014-
10. 12 Jon Ellis, 2010-13
11. 12 Rob Tesch, 1989-92

Career Receiving Yards
1. 2,816 Tanner Bleskin, 2010-13
2. 2,207 Elvis Akpla, 2009-11
3. 2,070 Chip Hobbs, 1995-99
4. 1,920 Rob Tesch, 1989-92
5. 1,856 Scott Turnquist, 2000-03
6. 1,850 Eric Hopkins, 1992-95
7. 1,759 Rick Gatewood, 2004-05
8. 1,720 Ron Bain, 1966-68
9. 1,635 Junior Adams, 2001-02
10. 1,598 Joe Bignell, 1994-97
11. 1,377 Mitchell Herbert, 1981-84

2016 In-Season Honors
**STATS NATIONAL PLAYER OF WEEK**
none

**ROOT BIG SKY PLAYER OF THE WEEK**
9/10 - John Walker (Defense), 11/19 - Josh Hill (Defense)

Previous Career Honors
**LUKE DALY:** Big Sky Player of the Week
11/16/15, 9/27/14

**Career Rushing Yards/Carry**
1. 6.23 Chris Murray, 2016-
2. 6.12 Shawn Johnson, 2011-14
3. 6.06 Steve Kracher, 1972-75
4. 5.5 Delmar Jones, 1975-78
5. 5.4 Dakota Prukop, 2013-15
6. 5.4 Dan Sundling, 1962-64
7. 5.3 Tom Kostba, 1974-76
8. 5.3 Cody Kirk, 2010-13

2016 Bobcat Honors

**Career Forced Fumbles**
1. 8 Caleb Schreibeis, 2009-12
2. 8 Mac Bignell, 2014-
3. 7 Jody Owens, 2009-12
4. 7 Ken Lang, 1984-87
5. 7 Clete Linebarger, 1982-85
6. 7 Ken Lang, 1984-87
7. 7 Mark Follars, 1998-99
8. 7 Ray Sebestyen, 2001-04
9. 7 Corey Widmer, 1988-91
10. 6 Brad Daly, 2009, '11-13
11. 5 Adam Cordeiro, 2000-03
12. 5 Adam Cordeiro, 2000-03
13. 5 Shon Flores, 1998-99
14. 5 Scott Matthews, 1993-96
15. 5 Jim Kalafat, 1992-93

**Career Natural Player of Week**
1. 21 Kelly Davis, 1983-86
2. 20* Elvis Akpla, 2009-11
3. 19 Chip Hobbs, 1995-99
4. 16 Sam McCullum, 1971-73
5. 14 Tom White, 1982-85
6. 14 Ron Bain, 1966-68
7. 13 Tanner Bleskin, 2010-13
8. 13 Rick Gatewood, 2004-05
9. 13 Mitchell Herbert, 2014-
10. 12 Jon Ellis, 2010-13
11. 12 Rob Tesch, 1989-92
**INDIVIDUAL RECORDS**

**Individual Rushing Records**

**Rushing Yards, Career**
10. 2,111 Chad Newell, 2013-16

**Rushing Touchdowns, Career**
2. 29 Chad Newell, 2013-16

**Rushing Touchdowns, Season**
7. 12 Chris Murray, 2016

**Rushing Yards per Carry, Season**
4. 6.2 Chris Murray, 2016

**Rushing Yards, Freshman**
1. 860 Chris Murray, 2016

**100-yard Rushing Games, Career**
10. 6 Chad Newell, 2013-16

**Individual Passing Records**

**Passing Yards, Freshman**
5. 707 Chris Murray, 2016

**Individual Receiving Records**

**Touchdown Catches, Career**
5. 15 Mitchell Herbert, 2014-

**Individual Total Offense Records**

**Total Offense, Career**
4. 7,347 Dakota Prukop, 2013-15

**Total Offense, Season**
2. 3,822 Dakota Prukop, 2015

**Total Offense per Game, Career**
1. 319.4 Dakota Prukop, 2013-15

**Total Offense per Game, Season**
2. 347.5 Dakota Prukop, 2015

**Scoring Records**

**Total TDs, Career**
2. 32 Chad Newell, 2013-16

**Points, Season**
T6. 90 Luke Daly, 2014

**Individual Special Teams Records**

**Most Field Goals Over 50 Yards, Career**
T3. 3 Luke Daly, 2014-15, ’17

**Most Field Goals Over 50 Yards, Season**
T3. 3 Luke Daly, 2015

**Most Field Goals Over 50 Yards, Game**
T1. 2 Luke Daly vs. ISU, 2015

**Most Field Goals 40 or Longer, Season**
10. 3 Luke Daly, 2015

**Longest Field Goals**
2. 57 Luke Daly vs. ISU, 2015
T6. 53 Luke Daly vs. ISU, 2015

**Individual Defensive Records**

**Tackles-for-Loss, Season**
T4. 20.5 Mac Bignell, 2015

**Fumbles Caused, Career**
T1. 8 Mac Bignell, 2014-

**Fumbles Caused, Season**
T6. 4 Mac Bignell, 2015
T10. 3 Bryson McCabe, 2016
T10. 3 Jessie Clark, 2015

**Fumbles Caused, Game**
T1. 2 Rob Walsh vs. ETSU, 2015

**Fumbles Recovered, Career**
T8. 4 Mac Bignell, 2014-

**TEAM RECORDS**

**Team Rushing Records**

**Rushing Touchdowns, Season**
5. 31 2016

**Yards per Rush, Season**
5. 5.11 2016
### Team Records

#### Total Yards
- **Season:** 6,352 in 2014
- **Game:** 737 vs. UC Davis, 2014

#### Rushes
- **Season:** 794 in 1976
- **Game:** 78 vs. Fresno State, 1974

#### Most Rushing Yards
- **Season:** 4,453 in 2011-14
- **Game:** 556 vs. Fresno State, 2014

#### Fewest Rushing Yards
- **Season:** 555 in 1986
- **Game:** -33 vs. Sam Houston State, 1986

#### Rushing Touchdowns
- **Season:** 43 in 2014
- **Game:** 6 times

#### Rushing First Downs
- **Game:** 25 vs. Portland State, 1968

#### Passing Yards
- **Season:** 3,672 in 1984
- **Game:** 516 vs. Sac State, 2004

#### Pass Attempts
- **Season:** 529 in 1984
- **Game:** 66 vs. Eastern Washington, 1985

#### Touchdown Passes
- **Season:** 32 in 1984
- **Game:** 6 twice

#### Most Interceptions
- **Season:** 29 in 1985
- **Game:** 6 vs. Fresno State, 1968

#### Points
- **Season:** 496, 2014
- **Game:** 77 vs. UC Davis, 2014

### Individual Records

#### Total Offense Yards
- **Career:** 12,336-DeNarius McGhee, 2010-13
- **Game:** 1,638-Chris Murray, 2016-

#### All-Purpose Yards
- **Career:** 4,453-Shawn Johnson, 2011-14
- **Game:** 1,759-Ryan Johnson, 2001

#### Rushing Yards, Total
- **Career:** 3,646-Ryan Johnson, 1999-2002
- **Game:** 298-Don Hass vs. Weber St, 19967

#### Rushing Yards, Avg per Game
- **Career:** 101.5-Don Hass, 1965-67
- **Season:** 146.0-Don Hass, 1966

#### Receiving Yards
- **Career:** 2,816-Tanner Bleskin, 2010-13
- **Game:** 1,149-Joe Bignell, 1984

#### Touchdown Catches
- **Career:** 21-Kelly Davis, 1983-86
- **Game:** --

#### Touchdown Passes
- **Career:** 12-Don Hass, 1966
- **Game:** 5 by four players

#### 100-Yard Rushing Games
- **Career:** 17-Ryan Johnson, 1999-2002
- **Season:** 8-Don Hass, 1966

#### 1,000-Yard Rushing Seasons
- **Career:** 2 by many

#### Passing Yards
- **Career:** 11,203-DeNarius McGhee, 2010-13
- **Game:** 1,377-Mitchell Herbert, 2014-

#### Pass Attempts
- **Career:** 1,559-Travis Lulay, 2002-05
- **Game:** 66-Kelly Bradley vs. EWU, 1985

#### Touchdown Passes
- **Career:** 79-DeNarius McGhee, 2010-13
- **Game:** 6-Chris Murray, 2016-

#### Receptions
- **Career:** 193-Tanner Bleskin, 2010-13
- **Game:** 88*-Joe Bignell, 1984

#### Completion Percentage
- **Career:** .640-DeNarius McGhee, 2010-13
- **Season:** .660-DeNarius McGhee, 2012, '13

#### Completion Percentage
- **Career:** 79-DeNarius McGhee, 2010-13
- **Game:** 6-Chris Murray, 2016-

#### Touchdown Passes
- **Career:** 1,377-Mitchell Herbert, 2014-
- **Season:** 1,149-Joe Bignell, 1984
- **Game:** 239-Mike Jefferson vs. NAU, 2006

#### Receiving Yards
- **Career:** 2,816-Tanner Bleskin, 2010-13
- **Game:** 1,149-Joe Bignell, 1984
- **Season:** 88*-Joe Bignell, 1984
- **Game:** 21-David Pandt vs. EWU, 1985

#### Passing Attempts
- **Career:** 1,559-Travis Lulay, 2002-05
- **Game:** 66-Kelly Bradley vs. EWU, 1985

#### Touchdown Passes
- **Career:** 6-Chris Murray, 2016-
- **Game:** --

#### *-includes playoffs
SEPT 23
Eastern Washington at Montana

SEPT 30
Weber State at Montana State

OCT 07
Portland State at Montana State

OCT 14
North Dakota at Montana

OCT 21
Montana State at Northern Colorado

OCT 28
Idaho State at Montana State

NOV 04
Northern Arizona at Montana

NOV 11
Northern Colorado at Montana

NOV 18
Montana at Montana State

NOV 18
Portland State at Eastern Washington

BROADCAST SCHEDULE / 2017 BIG SKY FOOTBALL

All games subject to change. For the latest schedule, visit ROOTSPORTS.com.
2017 Regular Season Game Schedule

8.2 Fall Camp Report Date
8.3 Newcomers Practice #1
8.4 Full-Team Practice #1

8.2 Fall Camp Report Date
8.3 Newcomers Practice #1
8.4 Full-Team Practice #1

9.2 @ Washington State
9.9 @ South Dakota State
9.23 @ North Dakota
9.30 Weber State
10.7 @ Portland State

10.14 @ Eastern Washington
10.21 @ Northern Colorado
10.28 Idaho State
11.4 @ Kennesaw State
11.11 @ Northern Arizona
11.18 Montana